

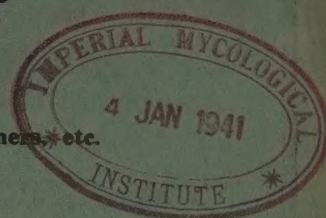
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Vol. XLI. No. 11

NOVEMBER 5th, 1940

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Special Articles This Month

Crop Reports from All States
Acquisition Scheme for 1941
South Australian News and Notes
The Goulburn Valley, Victoria
Citrus, Dried and Canned Fruits
Market Grower Section
Poultry and Home Notes

Seasonable Spraying Work
Gherkin Culture
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Market Notes and Prices

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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," March, 1937, by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: CODLIN MOTH COVER SPRAYS—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1926, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codlin moth control."

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PITHY BITS

By "Gadabout"

(Continued from last month.)

A NOTHER month of war and work. The war gains momentum, working up to the final terrific struggle which will end the war.

Slowly but surely, Germany and Italy are losing strength and confidence, and just as surely is our Empire gaining in both.

Grim lips still grimmer set. Courage in sacrifice rising above the human. God save the people. Work.

There is a demand for courage and endurance in work, not so spectacular as war, but possibly more exacting in its demand for calm endurance and careful planning. God make us strong. Courage.

How often, in simple ways is courage shown. Just a lad of the Navy, who left his position in a leading city bank to join up to do his bit and for ten weeks no word of him. Somewhere on the seas in some vessel, and at some spot up against who knows what, and then a cable from him just three words "Still going strong." We wonder what those words covered.

Such Does War Demand.

Just a lad on the farm, a dozen or so cows to milk morning and night and a few other things. A sigh and a grimace, a heave of the shoulders that is all, and then he speaks, "WE are nearly broke, are we Dad? Well, we aren't beaten yet. You can't pay me wages, and I can't go about seeing things, well, it does not matter," and the lad carries on. Such is the courage, the patience, the endurance that work demands.

The Apple and Pear Acquisition Committee.

Just now its fate is being decided. Will it be pruned, sprayed, fertilised, or rooted out, perhaps none of these. A regrafting operation might be tried and then you will have a tree with different growing habits and producing fruit of better quality.

The growers need still more help and better organising, a strong pull together and it is likely that a quarter million pounds more than otherwise would, will pass to the growers during the coming year.

Gadabout does urge consideration to the following suggestion that at the beginning of the seasons prices be fixed on a quality basis and maintained right through until the particular fruit is sold.

This seems a novel idea, but it improves on examination. Gadabout can't persuade himself that it is right, but realising its many advantages, feels it might be.

1. It would enable large business organisations and the trade generally to make complete and continuous selling arrangements.
2. It will still give to the public variation in prices because of size, variety and quality.
3. It reduces the opportunities of underhand advantages being given.
4. It would allow the Board, growers and agents alike to be employed in selling. (Any not satisfactory could be refused supplies.)
5. It would simplify the work of the Acquisition Committee and reduce its cost.
6. It is not difficult to give effect to. The Acquisition Committee knows by this year's experience just what to do and what price to fix.
7. It would give the Acquisition Committee more time to concentrate on extending and encouraging sales.
8. It would cause a greater interest by the growers in their own fruit and better fruit as a result.

In a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom. Gadabout is just one of the multitude.

Wake up growers!

Organisation Needed

Dear Gadabout,

As a grower of half a lifetime ago I have watched the vicissitudes of this most unorganised of industries, and realise the force of your suggestions and your invitation for others' suggestions. Its domination by a "totalitarian" Board, whose in-expert, rule-of-thumb methods are landing it in a cul de sac, are hardly to be wondered at. It first frightened growers by announcing advances up to 2/- a case, and now frightens buyers by fixing prices few will pay. So the growers, guessing that was all they might get, did not bother to put quality into their fruit or care into their packing, but bundled it, good, bad and indifferent, into the market, and of course slumped it.

The Board then set much higher prices, and blocked sales; made advances on estimated crops, irrespective of quality, which resulted in a lot of inferior and badly packed fruit being sent in. Thousands of cases were not sent in at all and many thousands more went rotten. The Board's next arbitrary and inhibitory action was to stop growers and agents selling direct, and to attempt to build up a selling organisation of its own, which was too hastily put together to function properly. Hundreds of thousands of cases included fruit that should have been culled or sold separately, as low grades, at lower prices, instead of lowering the lot. Now

the consumer is asked to pay too much, to redeem the loss this made in the total sales—and the consumer naturally won't pay 9/- to 12/- for what he once got for 4/6 to 5/6.

To meet the gathering congestion and threatening chaos I suggest that:—

(1) Advances be made only on fruit delivered.

(2) Provision be made, as you suggest, for growers and agents to join in an unrestricted selling campaign.

(3) A fair price be set from start of season and maintained throughout, so that re-selling buyers can know where they are and organise their selling well ahead, to increase consumption.

(4) Growers to pick fruit as ripe as possible (as we used to do) to add flavor—and the vitamins from distilled sunlight, which come in the last ripening weeks. This would nearly double consumption, and, with trays, fruit need not be picked half ripe to avoid bruising.

(5) As the Board has not satisfactorily met the situation, Parliament be asked to appoint a Committee of investigation to go into the whole question. With a consistent price throughout sales would be more continuous. "Sleepy Grower" suggested a Co-operative Co. for marketing. If you, with your intimate knowledge of the market, were at its head, I would say "Yes."

EX-FRUITGROWER.

Surrey Hills, Vic., 14/10/40.

NEW LOCAL PLANT.

Citrus Juices Increasing.

Presenting the annual report of Alfred Lawrence and Co. Ltd., the chairman (Mr. E. B. Lawrence) stated recently that as one of the largest manufacturers of flavoring essences in the Commonwealth, his company had done much to foster the

processing of citrus juices and had greatly increased its output, although the drought had affected their earlier anticipated output.

Export trade with the East and with South Africa, had developed, and the Indian and Dutch East Indies markets were being exploited. It was hoped that many other lines previously imported, could be made in Australia.

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News of the Month

EXPORT PROSPECTS. War-Time Conditions.

In discussing Australia's war-time policy as to primary production, Mr. Cameron, when Minister for Commerce, recently detailed the avenues through which increased production would benefit Britain. During his address he stated that: Meat exports would be limited during the next few months, more butter, cheese, bacon and eggs were wanted, because of a wheat surplus it would be inadvisable to increase production, wool will be wanted and Britain will take the entire clip throughout the war period and for one year afterwards, shipping space for fresh fruit will be restricted, the position of canned fruits was obscure, that of dried fruits was good.

The U.K. cannot guarantee imports of Apples and Pears in 1941 unless the shipping position improves. Government would shortly consider the method of marketing Apples and Pears in view of the possibility of the export trade still being held up. A low priority for canned fruits is recorded but negotiations were still going on in the hope of securing all export of this class as possible. Ordinarily about 1,500,000 were taken by Britain, but in 1940 only half that quantity was purchased, necessitating a large carry over.

NEW FEDERAL MINISTRY.

Sir Earle Page Minister for Commerce.

Changes have taken place in the Federal Government as a result of the recent election. Of particular interest to fruit-growers is the change in the administration of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Mr. A. G. Cameron has resigned from the United Country Party. Sir Earle Page is to be Minister for Commerce, a position which he has held previously. Mr. H. L. Anthony (N.S.W.) is now an Assistant Minister.

Mr. Anthony is well known in the fruit industry. He is a Banana grower and has for many years been a vigorous worker for the producers, being President for a considerable time of the Banana Growers' Federation.

Mr. Harrison (N.S.W.) is the new Minister for Customs; previously he held the position of Postmaster-General.

"STATESMAN" ANSWERS "WANTIRNA."

The Editor,
"The Fruit World."
Sir,

There was no imagination on my part nor among local growers in 1937 when, despite the best crop of Apples I ever had, I lost money through an over-supplied market. "Wantirna" does not deny my statement that thousands of cases of beautiful Apples were "tipped" at the close of the season, and with no Tasmanian Apples in competition. I personally "tipped" hundreds of cases of Jonathans, Grannies and Stewarts.

"Wantirna" may have his opinion as to the extent of the coming Apple and Pear crop. I have mine, and I agree with those who say that a big crop throughout Australia is in sight. "Wantirna's" figures regarding this season do not include the "bootleg" fruit, which was very considerable.

I disagree with many of the Board's actions, and believe that many improvements are possible. I believe, too, that needed improvements will be put into effect if, as I hope, we have a control scheme for 1941. Without a control scheme for all Australia, chaos is inevitable. I would suggest to "Wantirna" that the industry prepare proposals for the improvement of the scheme and set about getting results instead of finding fault.

For instance, Tasmania should be told that vigorous thinning is necessary, as there was far too much small fruit about this season. Also we should develop the Apple juice trade.

Yours faithfully,
"STATESMAN."
25/10/40.

Spraying Suggestions

Third and Fourth Stages

If not already provided for, the third spray, which should have been done in October, dependent upon weather conditions, should at once be proceeded with. At the petal fall stage a lime sulphur spray $1\frac{1}{2}$ gals. to 100 gals. water should have been used for Apples. If heavy rains have occurred, $1\frac{1}{2}$ gals. lime sulphur to 100 gals. water should be given. Care should be taken against burns, and the spraying should be done on a cool day.

Black Spot should be countered with Bordeaux or Burgundy mixture. In particular districts a calyx spray for Apples and Pears is used. The suggestion

is a lead cover spray 6 lb. to 100 gals., with white oil added. This is followed 9 days later with a similar mixture, then every fortnight with 5 to 6 lb., according to the weather. If dry conditions are experienced 6 lb. lead to 100 gals. water with 1 qt. to $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. white oil as a binder.

Black Spot.

For Black Spot, a Croydon (Victoria) grower recommends one 6:4:40 Bordeaux mixture spray at pink or white stage with 1 qt. to $\frac{3}{4}$ gal. white oil as a binder, then no further spray until petal fall, when 6 oz. blue-stone should be added with white oil as before and 1 lb. lime to

neutralise, with arsenate lead. Then apply the same spray fortnightly till picking starts. If the Spring is early, 2 to 3 gals. white oil to 100 gals. water should be used for Scale.

Codling Moth.

The Victorian Department of Agriculture, aided by a grant from the Commonwealth Government, has carried out a series of comprehensive spraying trials for Black Spot and Codling Moth covering the past four years and the main items which have come out of these trials are the importance of the first sprays being properly done, and the absolute necessity of timing the later sprays to coincide with moth flights.

To ascertain the correct timing of the later sprays, it is essential to employ lure pots which contain a solution of either a ten per cent. molasses or a one in nine of cheap wine of the port variety. By closely

watching the lure pots, it will be noticed that broods overlap one another during a hot spell, but even so, a definite time can be arrived at when the maximum flight takes place and the spraying time determined. It is not always possible to spray at the correct time in an irrigation area, where irrigations sometimes clash with the time a spray should be applied, but by watching the lure pots every week it is possible to make suitable arrangements for irrigations to fit in more accurately with the correct spraying time. Therefore if we want to abandon the hit or miss method of combating Codling Moth and get near the modern recommendations, we must employ lure pots for the purpose of timing sprays more accurately. There has been a tendency in recent years for growers to use more than double the strength of arsenate of lead mixture recommended by the makers, in the belief that it gives better results.

While admitting that cleaner fruit has been more in evidence in the past few years, the reason appears to be one of more thorough spraying than by the use of a higher concentration of arsenate of lead. Some growers say that they use 1 lb. of arsenate powder to ten gallons of water, which is about three times the recommended strength. Just what the effect on the soil will be in the course of time by the use of such a strong concentration being continually applied year after year is hard to say, but it will not be beneficial.

In commenting upon spraying for Apples, Mr. V. L. Lawrey, Orchard Supervisor, in a radio talk recently from Shepparton (Vic.), said that although the Codling Moth which attacks Apples is the same as that which attacks Pears, a rather different treatment is required. To get satisfactory results Apples must be sprayed when about 60-70 per cent. of the petals have fallen, regardless of whether Codling Moths are active at that stage or not.

The reason for this is that the calvces of the Apples close immediately the petals fall, and if these are not filled with arsenate of lead prior to closing, no future sprays can protect this point of entry.

The earlier flowering varieties, Granny Smith included, are practically ready. Jonathans and a few others will be a little later, and London Pippins and Rome Beauty later still.

Strangely enough, the organism which causes Black Spot on Pears is not the same as that which causes Black Spot on Apples. Nevertheless, the conditions which suit one suit the other.

Bordeaux must not be included in the arsenate of lead for Apples. Severe russetting is the result. If any fungicide is required at this stage it can only be $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of lime sulphur to 80. This does not make a good combination with arsenate of lead. The resulting mixture goes black, with the release of

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soluble arsenic which is liable to burn.

If the combination is used, half a pound of lime casein spreader should be included and the arsenate of lead added to the lime sulphur and spreader immediately before use, and no delay should be allowed in the application.

Pears.

With regard to Pear sprays, the speaker stated that, of course, the early-flowering varieties should be done first.

This spraying is probably the most important of any of the arsenate of lead sprays, as it is usually the only one which can be got right into the calyces of the Pears, and as this is the part of the fruit most subject to entry by Codling Moth, the importance is obvious.

Now comes the question of the inclusion of Bordeaux. The full programme for Black Spot control includes two pre-blossom Bordeaux sprays and a 3:3:50 included in the first arsenate of lead spray.

Working on the assumption that this is not a naturally bad district for Black Spot, and that in addition, the season appeared to be a dry one, a number of growers omitted both the pre-blossom sprays; few, if any, applied the two, the remainder being content with one. So far no Spot seems to have made an appearance, despite the lack of spraying. However, we have had Spot here before, and some day we will have it again, and it seems to be tempting fate a bit too much to leave off the 3:3:50 Bordeaux, which is so easily applied, and so comparatively cheap.

Where russetting has been noticed in past years on Packham's, caused by the Bordeaux, a 1:1:50 can be substituted for the 3:3:50, to be replaced with subsequent arsenate of lead sprays should the weather justify it.

Josephines, of course, will not stand even the 1:1:50—about 6 oz. of bluestone and 6 oz. of limil to an 80 gallon vat is the maximum for this variety. Last season demonstrated this very conclusively. Some growers had been encouraged to use the

ordinary strengths on the Josephines because of absence of russetting on accidentally sprayed trees during the previous seasons, but some peculiarity of last season contributed to decided russetting and damage to the fruit.

Codling Spray Cheapened.

After conducting tests at Leeton, N.S.W., Mr. E. J. Watson, Entomologist of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, states that by modifying the white oil-lead arsenate spray mixture, growers can save up to 30/- per acre with no loss of efficiency in the control of the Codling Moth. The method consists of halving the proportion of white oil emulsion used with lead arsenate in the second, third, and fourth cover sprays, reports "Farmer and Settler."

During the past two seasons Mr. Watson has carried out tests using white oil emulsion at the rate of one gallon in 200 gallons of lead arsenate.

White oil emulsions are generally applied at the rate of one in 100 and are used in combination with lead arsenate, but in some districts the lead arsenate may be omitted from the later sprays and nicotine sulphate substituted.

This white oil-nicotine sulphate mixture is the commonest and most successful non-arsenical combination suitable for the control of Codling Moth. Results obtained during the past two seasons have shown that equally satisfactory control is obtained with lead arsenate-white oil combination sprays when white oil is used at a concentration of one in 200 instead of the standard, one in 100 mixture.

This reduction in the strength of white oil will save the grower up to 30/- per acre, depending on the thoroughness with which trees are sprayed. For satisfactory results it is pointed out that the application of all sprays must be thorough and generous, ranging from 2½ gallons for medium-sized trees to five or six gallons for big trees.

In districts where Black Spot is a problem it is pointed out that white oil should not be ap-

Victorian Crop Prospects

The Victorian Dept. of Agriculture reports under date November 4, that during October beneficial rains were recorded in some fruitgrowing areas, but further falls are required for the earlier promise of large crops of deciduous fruits to be maintained.

In certain areas, in spite of a satisfactory setting of Apples and Pears, there is an indication that the young fruit will thin out extensively.

Apple and Pear growers should watch for black spot, which has been noticed on some unsprayed trees. When detected, apply sprays of lime sulphur 1-80 or weak Bordeaux mixture. Red spider is fairly active on some Pears in the Goulburn Valley. The inclusion of white oil in the lead arsenate sprays will reduce this infestation.

A heavy setting of Peaches has occurred in most districts: thinning may be required. Green and black Peach aphid have caused some damage to foliage and nicotine sulphate is being used to combat these pests. Apricots in the Goulburn Valley districts give promise of only medium crops. In the Geelong districts a heavy fall occurred at the "showing" stage. Dry conditions probably account for this.

Plums, satisfactory in most districts. Cherries are ripening earlier than usual. Medium crops expected.

Citrus.

In the Swan Hill and North-east citrus areas, some Navels are still being harvested. The blossoming of Navels and Valencia has been patchy. Lemon and Grapefruit trees should produce satisfactory crops. Dry warm weather is favorable for scale development. Fumigation has been suspended at present, but further control measures will be necessary after blossoming.

In the Swan Hill district, the webbing spider has been seen. Webs should be pulled apart as soon as noticed, otherwise the trees are likely to become enveloped.

Vines.

A count of vine blossom bunches in the Swan Hill and Mildura areas shows a decrease from last year, but this should result in improved quality. Changes in pruning and trellising of the Ohanez variety appear to have resulted in increased crops; a good yield is again expected this season. In the Mildura district, a severe frost caused considerable damage to some vineyards, but on the average the loss should not be severe. Spraying for black spot of vines is continuing in order that new growth may be protected from this serious vine disease.

plied to trees which previously have been sprayed with lime sulphur, unless an interval of at least three weeks has elapsed.

If losses from Codling Moth are to be kept to a minimum, careful attention must be paid to various supplementary measures and any means by which the number of overwintering grubs can be reduced is well worth while.

The scraping of rough bark about the trunk of the tree and the destruction of any sheltering grubs is commonly practised. In trees with comparatively smooth

bark numbers of grubs may be found at the base of the tree from 1 in. to 2 in. below ground level. This harborage should not be overlooked.

Where any difficulty is experienced in keeping losses to a reasonable figure by the various measures recommended, bandaging forms a valuable supplementary aid. If the periodical fortnightly inspection of the burlap type bandage is out of the question, chemically treated cardboard bands, which do not require any inspection, may be well employed.

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South Australia: George Wills & Co. Ltd., Gilbert House, Gilbert Place, Adelaide. Western Australia: F. H. Faulding & Co. Ltd., 313 Murray Street, Perth.

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Victorian News and Notes

(Continued from previous page)

GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATION.

Acquisition Scheme Endorsed.

At the annual meeting of the Gippsland Fruit Marketing Association, held in Pakenham on October 18, the main subject of discussion was acquisition of 1941 crop. All who spoke expressed the opinion that in view of the heavy crop in sight, the position of the industry would be an impossible one without an acquisition scheme, and a resolution was unanimously carried that the Minister for Commerce be written to impressing on him the urgent necessity for an acquisition scheme.

The following were elected district representatives on the Executive Committee of the Association: — Messrs. T. F. Black (Beaconsfield Upper), T. C. Whiteside (Officer), A. E. Towt (Garfield), D. C. Black (Pakenham Upper), F. Kennedy (Pakenham), L. Thomas (Bunyip), and R. A. W. Bailey (Narre Warren). Mr. J. J. Ahern (Pakenham) was re-elected President, Cr. T. C. Whiteside (Officer), Vice-President, and Mr. W. H. Carne (Pakenham Upper), Secretary.

RED HILL SHOW.

School Children's Apple Packing Competition.

A very fine display of packed Apples attracted much attention at the Red Hill Show held on October 23. The entries were staged by the school children attending the eight Apple packing classes conducted by Mr. T. W. Pearce, Assistant Fruit Packing Instructor of the Horticultural Division, Department

of Agriculture, on the Mornington Peninsula.

Each school submitted six cases of 2½ in. and 2¾ in. Yates, wrapped in plain paper, each case being packed by a pupil in the class. The results of the competition were very satisfactory and the children handled these small sizes very well. So keen was the competition that the judge, Mr. Ward, Superintendent of Horticulture, separated the eight classes by only four points.

The Moorooduc State School class was the winner with Hastings S.S. second. Robert Parnell, of Moorooduc S.S. packed the best case of fruit.

The other competing schools were: Red Hill, Red Hill South, Hastings Convent, Tyabb Railway, Tyabb Upper and Somerville.

REDUCED WATER RATES.

Some Action Promised.

A deputation was received by Hon. G. L. Chandler, M.L.C., during October, when Messrs. J. W. Aspinall, F. Pyke, C. C. A. George, T. Marriott and F. G. Beet, representing Victorian orchardists and market growers, asked that the rate for excess water be reduced from 1/- to 6d. per 1,000 gallons. Mr. Chandler agreed that primary producers should be afforded some consideration in this respect, and that the Chairman of the Water Board would be interviewed. He also promised to sponsor a private member's bill along these lines at an early date. At date of going to press no further information is available. Members of the Legislative Council have been contacted with a view to securing their support when the Bill is presented.



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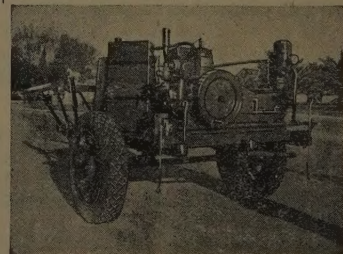
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The Acquisition Scheme

Reports from Various Sources

THAT THE QUESTION of whether the Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme should continue next year or not is growing in importance in all States, is seen in the large numbers of meetings and conferences reported since last issue. Some growers are strongly behind the scheme, whilst others are opposing it strenuously.

The merchant trade generally agrees that, in view of the probability that export will still be closed for next season, an efficient form of organised marketing is necessary and that, with the experience gained during the past season, improvements can be made for the future distribution throughout the Commonwealth.

Harcourt reports that its growers are strongly in favor of a continuance of the scheme. At a meeting of growers last week at Pakenham a resolution was tabled that opposition be made to any form of acquisition in 1941. At a meeting at Portland on October 22 growers supported the acquisition but urged that minimum prices of 3/6, 2/6 and 1/6 respectively shall be observed. The district represents production approximating 130,000 cases.

In an interview on October 16, Mr. Hogan admitted receipt of many letters from growers, and whilst some were opposed to the scheme for 1941, these largely represented metropolitan districts, but growers in country districts in the past had exported most of their fruit to Britain and had now temporarily lost that market; if all the fruit were sold in Melbourne there would be a glut with resultant loss to growers. It was therefore essential, commented Mr. Hogan, that the Commonwealth Government should acquire the Apple and Pear crop for next season.

All States but Victoria Approve.

At a short conference of State Ministers of Agriculture in Melbourne on October 26, proposals aiming at a unified system of acquisition of the Apple and Pear crops in the coming season were discussed. After discussion of the various propositions put forward, the Minister for Commerce, Mr. Cameron, indicated the line of action which he proposed to submit to the Commonwealth Government. This, it is understood, would be of greatest benefit to Tasmania, West Australia and South Australia, but it was not supported by Victoria's representative.

Mr. Cameron, in an official statement after the meeting, said there was still some difficulty about the Acquisition Scheme. The State representatives agreed to the unit basis of

payment which was set up at Sydney, and were unanimous on the necessity for an Acquisition Scheme. He had agreed to make a certain recommendation to the Commonwealth Government, involving an increase in the rating of Apples in the first grade of 6 to 7 units a case, and on Granny Smiths in New South Wales from 8 to 10 units a case. He had further agreed to recommend that the Commonwealth Government should give effect to that proposal. Victoria alone dissented.

The Minister added that he had warned the conference that from the Commonwealth's point of view the Apple acquisition was one of the most difficult things it had to handle. It was almost impossible to get agreement upon it, and agreement would be a necessary preliminary to Commonwealth Government action.

Harcourt Meeting Approves.

AT a largely attended meeting of fruitgrowers held at Harcourt on October 8 the following motion was carried: "That in view of the uncertain position in regard to the export of fresh fruit and the probability of a large crop throughout the Commonwealth, this meeting of growers of Central Victoria, representing production of 800,000 to one million cases, requests the Commonwealth Government to continue the Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme to cover the 1940-41 season."

Mr. Cameron, Minister for Commerce, Brigadier-General Rankin and Mr. Pollard, Ms.H.R., attended the meeting.

A grower who attended reports that it was a packed house and only seven hands were shown against the motion and that Mr. Cameron pointed out that with all the criticism, the Board had done a wonderful job in their first year with no previous data to work upon.

Mr. J. H. Lang presided and claimed that Harcourt was the first irrigation district in Australia. Growers had stabilised conditions in the past and hoped for stabilised conditions in the future. Messrs. W. Eagle and F. Bertuch presented the motion with a full knowledge of what the position of growers would be if there was not an assured market. Unless growers received payable prices they could not possibly carry on. Mr. Osborne (Sedgwick) argued that if all growers had been treated as he had, he failed to see why they wanted the Board to continue.

Mr. Cameron Speaks.

In addressing those present, Mr. Cameron stated that although at the time he was not a member, the Commonwealth Government had been visited by no end of people who asked that some scheme of acquisition should be introduced. This was 13 months ago and with the bad weather conditions last March, even if the personnel of the Board had comprised angels they could not have done any better. At the moment the question of the future was the important matter.

No Shipping Space.

For the next year they could say that any shipping space that was available would be just sheer chance. They were faced with the method of satisfactorily disposing of Australia's Apple and Pear crop. They had had a conference in Canberra on July 7, and that they could not get an effective scheme until they had some real indication of what growers wanted. Some declared

that the scheme was their salvation and others that it was their damnation. The majority in this part of Victoria favored the acquisition scheme, said Mr. Cameron.

Next to the Grape industry the Apple and Pear growers had the least possible natural protection.

You have two alternatives before you, said Mr. Cameron. "One is to put your fruit on to the market for immediate absorption and the other to put it into cold storage to hold for a time."

Both the State Governments and the growers had been at fault up to date. Price fixing was a difficult task. There was a difference in cost of production, between district and district and between grower and grower. They tried to arrive at a balance between cost of production on one hand and market level on the other. A proposition had been recently submitted that an acquisition scheme should be introduced into Tasmania and Western Australia, and that the other four States should be allowed to carry on.

Three main points governed his decision on the question, said Mr. Cameron, who added that he wanted to:—

- Give a fair deal to the grower;
- See that the consumer got fruit at a fair price;
- And to relieve the drain on the Treasury for support of an industry as much as possible.

Mr. Cameron, in reply to a question, said emphatically that no fruit would be paid for this year until it was delivered.

In answering a question as to whether growers should stand losses which occurred during cold storage, Mr. Cameron said that there were two methods open to them. They could either dispose of their crop outright by selling it to the Government, or under the pool system. If a loss occurred that would be the loss

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of the pool and would be spread over members of it. They could not expect the Government to say if there was a profit, "let the growers have it," and if a loss ask the taxpayers to make it up. Referring to the payment by the Board of growers' debts to people who had a lien over them, Mr. Cameron said that the Board would not in future act as a debt collector.

Mr. Lang moved, "that this meeting disapproves of the policy of the Commonwealth Government in paying cost of production plus a reasonable margin of profit when buying any article of secondary industry and paying less than the cost of production to primary industries."

The motion, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, was carried unanimously.

Until complete figures were available, he was unable to give the actual cost of the Apple and Pear Board, said Mr. Cameron, in reply to a question.

The Commonwealth Government was ready to do its best for the growers, said Mr. Cameron, but when the growers throughout Australia were divided it was not the easiest matter for the Commonwealth to step in in the capacity of referee. The lines followed by the dried fruits industry were quoted by Mr. Cameron as an example of what the Apple and Pear organisations ought to be. "Get together and get somewhere. Stick apart and you'll get nowhere," said Mr. Cameron.

Fruit Juice Factory.

Mr. K. Williams said that no one could possibly produce fruit

at tenpence a case. He advocated the establishment of plants for making fruit juices, sought Mr. Cameron's opinion on the question, and suggested that as a secondary industry it might get more consideration.

Mr. Cameron said that he himself had once made a similar suggestion. The outlet for pulp was small, but he did not see why the manufacture of fruit juices should not have possibilities. He also thought that the introduction of the American idea of having Apples in slot machines where on the insertion of a penny, an Apple would be ejected, would do much to popularise Apples. For the establishment of such an industry as fruit juice manufacture from Apples, rural credits branch of the Commonwealth Bank, which had money available for such purposes could be approached. It advanced money to co-operative organisations. The fact that each year that branch of the bank always showed a gratifying margin spoke for itself.

Urging greater unity, Mr. Cameron said the Apple growers of Australia are a disorganised mob.

Expressing himself as being in favor of the Apple and Pear Board, Mr. Pollard, M.H.R., said that by banding themselves together like trade unionists and other bodies would they achieve what they wanted. Contrary to some opinion many Boards were successful.

No Hope Without Government Control.

"There is no hope for you without some form of Govern-

ment control," said Brigadier-General Rankin, who added that if they did not organise they would be left in the cold. At the present time secondary industries were guaranteed four per cent. over production and primary producers were even more entitled to that consideration. Although there was 54 per cent. of the State's population in Melbourne, 97 per cent. of the State's exportable wealth came from outside Melbourne. It was vital to their existence that they should have Government control in some form or another.

Tasmanian Viewpoint.

"Cessation of Acquisition Would be a Disaster."

Mr. L. S. Taylor, Chairman of the Tasmanian Apple and Pear Acquisition Committee, in a letter dated October 22, expressed the opinion that nothing but disaster would follow the dropping of the Acquisition proposals. He was unable then to make any further comment until a further decision had been reached by the Commonwealth Government.

VIEWS OF VICTORIAN GROWERS.

At a representative meeting of Victorian grower delegates, held on October 16, Mr. F. Moore presiding, a full statement of the situation affecting Victoria was set out and presented to the authorities.

It is pointed out that at the Canberra Conference on July 1, the delegates agreed that the prices should be: Group 1, 3/-; Group 2, 2/-; Group 3, 1/-; subject to an additional premium to Victoria, N.S.W. and Queensland.

At the meeting of the Agricultural Council at Sydney on August, vital alterations were considered—the unit system of appraisal, the adoption of a 5d. unit and no compensation for re-working or elimination of unwanted varieties; but all State Ministers requested a 6d. unit.

Later it appears Mr. Cameron stated he would not recommend raising the unit value to 6d., but would recommend an additional unit to S.A., Tas. and W.A. for No. 1 Group.

Figures were submitted showing that all that Victorian growers could hope for was 2/1.36d. per case, based on 75 per cent. being Extra Fancy or Fancy; but it was believed growers would not average 2/- per case with rising production costs and shortage of labor.

Victorian growers had invested £500,000 in cool stores, which were now being used to cope with the Tasmanian surplus. This was quite in order in an Australian scheme, but cognizance should be taken of the fact that these stores would not be in existence but for the initiative of the growers.

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At a conference of Victorian grower delegates, held at Mel-

bourne on October 15, resolutions were adopted affirming that the following was the minimum guaranteed price at which growers could exist and remain on their holdings: No. 1 Group, 3/6; No. 2 Group, 2/6; No. 3 Group, 1/6; such price to be paid for naked fruit on the orchard. It shall be obligatory on the grower to deliver fruit where directed and any expense apart from harvesting to be debited against the scheme.

Pears: That the absolute minimum price for Pears should be as follows: Group 1, 5/-; Group 2, 4/-; Group 3, 3/-.

It is the opinion of the meeting that Pears showed a profit to the pool last year and that some bonus should be paid to Pear growers who contributed to this position.

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Copies of the detailed statement setting out the Victorian position have been placed before the authorities with an earnest request that the proposals be adopted.

S. AUST. GROWER'S VIEWS.

Mr. H. O. Hannaford, Belair, S.A., writes (October 10) criticising the Apple and Pear Acquisition plan. He states that the greatness of the task in S.A. was never realised. Growers should have been supplied with cases in January and February, but few cases, if any, were ordered before early in March, which was partly the cause of so much waste. Continuing, he states "Now the Board is six months behind in payment, some growers have not received the second payment at this date. Many trees have been grubbed out in S. Aust. (I took out five acres), and there is much evidence of neglected orchards and a feeling of uncertainty prevails. Many growers prefer to take what they can get on the open market. This is off-year in this State and there has been more blossom than usual, but it does not look like setting. Growers selling by private treaty direct to shops and hawkers had reduced the middleman to one, now counting the Board (which is the worst) it has increased to three.

"Mr. Menzies promised growers a vote before another pool was forced on us. We look to have that promise honored."

MORNINGTON PENINSULA, VICTORIA.

Mr. J. A. Noble, Secretary of the Peninsula Defence League, states that a petition against acquisition has been largely signed around Tyabb, Hastings and Somerville.

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On the other hand, many Peninsula growers affirm the necessity for acquisition, viewing the situation from the Australian viewpoint. An improvement in the administration is sought.

During October, convictions were recorded against several growers in N.S.W. for non-registration of their orchards.

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New South Wales News and Notes

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas

LEETON ANNUAL SHOW — PASSING OF MR. WILLIAM NULTY —
ASPARAGUS CANNING — CROPS PROSPECTS, ETC.

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

DURING the early days of October high temperatures prevailed throughout the district, and the rice farms rejoiced in ideal weather conditions for sowing their crops, and work in this direction is proceeding rapidly throughout the areas, where the soil conditions are favorable, although some growers whose soil is of the heavier grey texture have been advised to delay their sowing for the present in order to allow the soil to obtain more warmth.

The long hot dry spell, however, will not prove so satisfactory for the area of wheat sown on the "dry lands" and early sowing will probably show a decided loss.

The warm weather, however, will have the effect of hastening on the ripening of the Valencia crop, and most of the fruit is now mature. Some quite high tests have been found in Valentias and export consignments from both ends of the area have been forwarded to New Zealand, some of the fruit being of very fine quality.

In a previous issue reference was made to the menace caused to rice growers by the large flocks of wild ducks which had harbored in some of the sanctuaries on these areas and from whence they made very destructive onslaughts to the rice paddocks.

Endeavors were made to have the season open earlier than usual, and after repeated requests to the Chief Secretary's Department, the applications made by both the Wade and Wilimbong Shires were acceded to and an open season was declared within the boundaries of these shires for the months of October, November and December.

Already some excellent "bags" of birds have been reported, and the residents of the towns in the Areas have been making successful raids on the ducks. The rice growers of these Areas are endeavoring to have the extended open season made a permanent measure as they claim that this is an absolute necessity if their crops are to be adequately safeguarded.

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On September 28 it was learned with general regret that Mr. William Nulty had passed over to the Great Beyond, and the loss of this fine old pioneer at the age of 71 years will be mourned. For the past two

years Mr. Nulty suffered severe illness, but prior to that time his keen interest in all matters for the betterment of Leeton's interests were keenly exhibited.

His fine record in the interests of Labour are well known, and he was always outspoken and sincere in his sentiments and principles, earning the admiration of his friends and political opponents alike.

During the 1929 elections, Mr. W. Nulty stood as Labor candidate for the Murrumbidgee Electorate, and was only narrowly defeated in the contest by 1,360 votes out of a total of 50,000 recorded.

His funeral was largely attended by all sections of the community, thus attesting to the high regard in which he was held by all who knew him.

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In spite of drought conditions and other adverse circumstances, and war conditions prevailing, the Leeton Agricultural Show Committee decided to hold their annual show as usual, and in spite of the forebodings of a few, their decision proved to have been a good one. The show was only held on one day instead of the usual two days which were generally allotted to this fixture, but the general public showed their appreciation by a splendid attendance.

The side shows were even better than usual, and made for the enjoyment of both young and old.

The truly wonderful district exhibit showed the great possibilities and potentialities of the

irrigation areas, and was of a most comprehensive nature.

Most effectively displayed, under an arch of wool carrying the words "District Exhibit, 1940," were a profusion of products of every description, from sheaves of wheat to preserves and jams, dried and canned fruits, bacon and hams, grasses, grains and fodders the whole having been most artistically staged by Mr. W. Arbuckle, and a number of willing assistants. All who assisted to place such a comprehensive exhibit before the visitors and settlers of these districts are to be heartily complimented.

A large amount of very complimentary comments were heard on the exceptionally fine exhibit staged by the Officers of the Department of Agriculture.

The manager of the Leeton Experiment Farm (Mr. R. Watkins) was the originator of this innovation, and he was ably and heartily supported by all Officers in the Leeton Area.

The exhibit as a means of instruction was of extreme value to farmers and rice growers, also to orchardists, and the right and wrong methods of correct feeding in the case of stock were most ably demonstrated.

Fodders and grasses suitable to the Area were shown, and also the noxious weeds, some of which were probably unknown to many growers, were also shown for their guidance.

Orchardists' needs were also well catered for, and explanatory cards showing the right and wrong ways of cultivation and irrigation were well displayed.

Citrus fruits of good and bad quality were contrasted, and all methods of dealing with the insect pests affecting fruit crops on the Area were dealt with by specimens exhibited, and instructions given.

Altogether a most ably staged and instructive exhibit, for

which the thanks of the growers are due to these able and efficient Officers of the Agricultural Department.

The citrus display by the Producers' Distributing Company, was also a most effective staging. This was in the form of a large map of Australia, enclosing a Union Jack worked into the scheme by Oranges wrapped in colored papers. The inclusion of a potato to represent Tasmania, was a novel and clever addition. Cases of packed citrus fruits were also part of the exhibit.

The junior farmers' exhibit was also a most comprehensive and worthy staging, and everyone was impressed with the value of work and products produced by these young farmers, and Mr. Moore and those who assisted him in the staging of this outstanding exhibit are to be most heartily congratulated.

Mr. A. E. Bowmaker, with the assistance of Officers of the Experiment Farm staged an exhibit of rice which must have been of great value to all growers.

Labelled sheaves of many varieties of rice were shown, and samples of the grain from its rough states to the polished commercial article were also shown. Colored graphs showing the average yields and their seasonal variation were also an interesting item.

The Riverina Welfare Farm also staged a very fine and comprehensive exhibit, and all products grown and prepared by the boys were of excellent type, the olives and olive oil being of special note.

Some citrus exhibits were of special note, and among them some superb quality Marsh Grapefruit, grown by Mr. L. Marchant, of Merungle Hill, were of particular interest to many citrus growers.

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Great regret was expressed by rice growers and others when it was learned that Mr. E. Pogendorf, who has been the experimentalist at the rice station for the past 13 years had been

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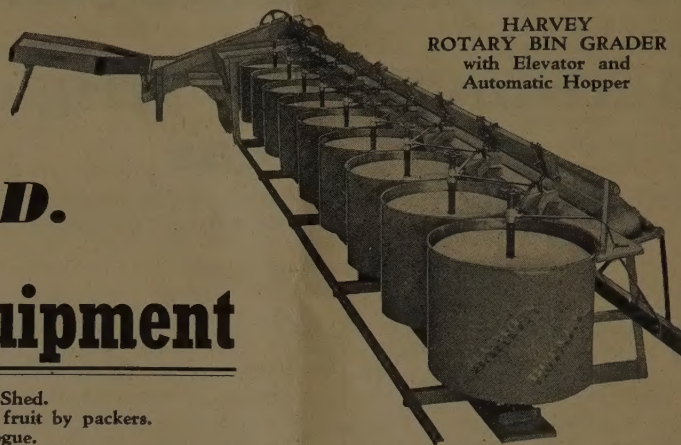
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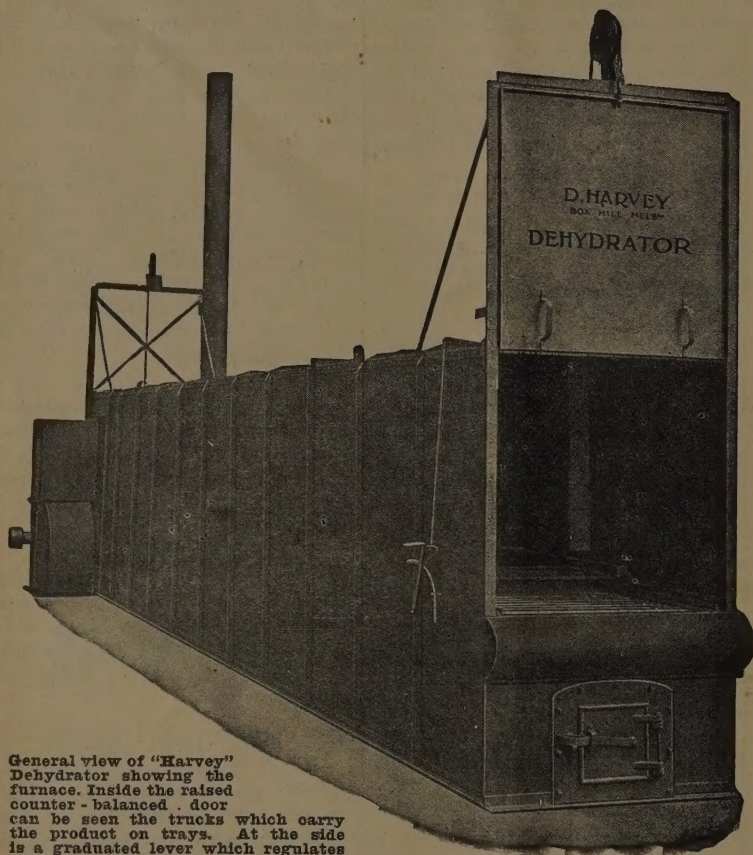
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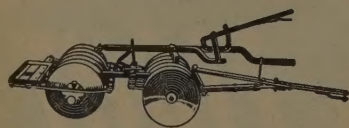
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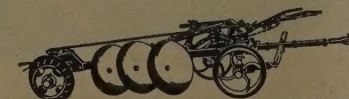
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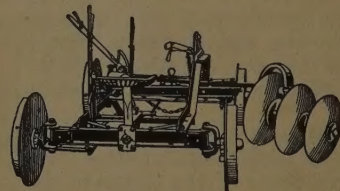
THE BEETLEBACK cuts out all hand working under citrus trees, and keeps the ground level. It lifts up the branches, cultivates under them, and gently replaces them on the ground.



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transferred to Sydney.

Mr. Poggendorf has been keenly interested in the improvement of the rice crops, and his services have also been most untiringly given to anyone who sought them. The valuable work done by this extremely able officer has been recognised, and it is understood that he has been promoted to a position of greater importance where his abilities may be made even of greater value than at the Rice Farm.

Mr. Poggendorf has evolved new varieties of rice by breeding and crossing various varieties, and has been devoting his knowledge to the development of an earlier maturing variety which may be of the greatest value to this industry.

The enormous development in rice growing on the Murrumbidgee Areas during the past 16 years, from a very small beginning is only an indication of what other industries may yet be started and prove to be of inestimable value to the resources of Australia.

Mr. Poggendorf's sterling qualities were attested to by many prominent men at the last show meeting, and general regret at his departure expressed.

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Last season the Leeton Cannery made its first trials with the canning of asparagus, and so successful were the results that the cannery officials contemplate that at least three times the quantity will be handled this season.

Mr. H. J. Williams (manager) states: "That the local crowns are becoming more mature and in consequence the quality of the asparagus is greatly improving." The variety grown here for canning, namely *Mary Washington*, is apparently very suitable to the local soil and conditions, and larger production is hopefully looked for in the future.

There is no reason why this industry should not assume very large proportions, and the tinned product now produced is of excellent quality and flavor and compares with any other brand sampled, according to many who have tested it.

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The effect of the long dry Winter is very noticeable on many citrus orchards, and the difference of trees growing on the deeper and moister soil is very marked. Some of the shallower soils seem to dry out very quickly, and other methods of cultivation may be adopted as suggested by Mr. R. J. Benton in his recent address to citrus growers of these Areas.

Certainly the appearance of the citrus grove of Mr. H. J. Braund is most marked, and here no cultivation is practised, but a mixture of permanent grasses and clovers is grown between the trees, and when high enough is mown by a special type of mower, and in some cases carted off and spread over the land which is not yet sown. Many of the citrus trees that were very heavily cut back some two and three years ago have

made a remarkable recovery, and it is stated that although more irrigation water has been used than formerly, yet the high water table has greatly receded, and the health of the trees is certainly a marked feature. Citrus growers in these Areas have yet much to learn, and the very valuable experiments being conducted by Mr. Braund will be followed with keen interest by other growers.

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It is somewhat early even yet to forecast the crops for the coming season, but from observations made, it appears that some varieties of Plums have set fairly heavily, while some very good crops of Apricots and Peaches have been noted.

Pears appear to be fairly good but Apples are patchy and the crop generally appears to be light. Some good crops, however, have been noted, and these appear to be on trees which received more water during the Winter than on other portions of the same holding. It is possible that a great deal may depend on the Winter watering.

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But for the discovery by Fetter Warren whilst travelling his section of the railway between Leeton and Murrumbidgee, a very serious accident might have resulted.

It is suspected that the obstruction was placed on the line by two absconders from the Riverina Welfare Farm, and that great determination had been shown by the miscreants was very obvious.

The two absconders were arrested and charged with the offence, which, as stated, might have been attended by serious consequences but for the vigilance of the officer mentioned.

Another Ambulance.

Shepparton's Contribution.

Adding to the many other war services tendered by fruit-growers, Shepparton growers and cannery interests have donated a military ambulance as their special contribution to the present will to win effort. This shows that not only are fruit-growers willing to assist men who have enlisted by caring for their orchards in their absence, as is being done in so many districts, but they are also giving hard-earned cash in the above and many other campaigns for funds.



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FRUIT TREES

Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W.

Board Meeting: October 25

Present: General J. Heane (in the chair), Messrs. F. B. Mackenzie (Kurrajong), A. E. Herring (Batlow), K. H. Todd (Griffith), A. S. Brown (Ourimbah), S. A. Stanford (Orange), A. A. Wilkinson (Uralla), P. W. James (Dural), L. T. Pearce, and E. E. Herrod (Secretary).

Mr. H. V. Smith attended the early part of the meeting by invitation and explained certain matters relative to Apple and Pear marketing.

Apple By-products: Mr. H. V. Smith reported that a Commonwealth organisation had recently been formed to standardise practices regarding the manufacture of Apple juice. Arrangements had been made for the C.S. and I.R. to test samples of Apple juice taken from the factories of the respective Apple juice manufacturers in the organisation, and the Australian Apple and Pear Board would then issue certificates indicating the test to which the Apple juice had been subjected. It was not generally believed that Apple juice consumption would absorb any considerable proportion of the 1941 surplus of Apples.

Mr. Smith expressed the opinion that there is a good demand for dried Apples, and that sale to military authorities could probably be arranged. The United Kingdom Government, however, can purchase dried Apples from both the U.S.A. and Canada at a figure which is too low for Australian manufacturers to compete with.

The market for canned Apples appears to be confined to the Commonwealth of Australia.

Considerable assistance to the consumption of Apples in the form of Apple juice would be given if the State authorities would permit the addition of 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. of Apple juice in the making of jam. In view of the cessation of supplies of pectin from U.S.A., the addition of this 8 to 10 per cent. of Apple juice would introduce that percentage of pectin to jams, which is necessary for the making of a first-class product.

In regard to export during 1941 it is believed that the maximum possible export will be two million cases, but the quantity exported will depend entirely upon shipping facilities available. Sale to the U.K. will not be as in previous years, whereby various shippers purchase in Australia and sell in the U.K., but will be done by direct purchase by the British Government.

N.S.W. Apple and Pear Acquisition Committee: It was reported that advice had been received from the Minister for Commerce that Mr. W. J. I. Nancarrow and Mr. W. C. Dickinson had been elected producer

representatives upon the N.S.W. Acquisition Committee.

Fertilizer Bounty: Following instructions from a previous meeting of the Board, it was reported that other primary producer organisations in N.S.W. had been contacted with the purpose of getting the Federal Government to reinstitute the fertilizer subsidy. The opinion was expressed by a number of primary producers' organisations that if agricultural production was to be maintained some encouragement must be given by the Federal Government to the use of fertilizers for this purpose, and in view of the rapidly increasing price of most fertilizers, this was becoming increasingly difficult.

For three years the fertilizer subsidy was at the rate of 15/- per ton and for the last three years had been at the rate of 10/- per ton. The loss of this subsidy had to be combined with the increased cost of fertilizer to obtain a correct estimate of the increased costs of production thrust upon the primary producer.

The Board decided to continue collaboration with other primary producer organisations in efforts to secure the reinstitution of the fertilizer subsidy.

Sulphate of Ammonia: It was reported that the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner had been requested to investigate increases in the price of sulphate of ammonia during recent months. This product is largely used by fruitgrowers throughout the State, and its application is necessary to ensure successful production of fruit and vegetables. Prior to the outbreak of war this product was available at £12/14/6 per ton, but had since increased to £16/12/6 per ton, distributors of the product requiring, of course, to add their cost of distribution. Word is now being awaited from the Prices Commissioner regarding the reasonableness, or otherwise, of the increased cost.

Fruit Fly Reward: It had been previously decided that the Fruitgrowers' Federation would collaborate with the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Queensland, in the payment of a reward for the discovery of an effective control measure for fruit fly, subject to the consent of the Minister for Agriculture being obtained.

The Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture, however, replied to the effect that the Department's experience of many years past had been that such a means had not been effective in the development of improved measures for diseases or pest control, and that accordingly the Minister was not in agreement with the proposal. It was considered that such sums of money that are available should

be utilised in specific investigations for the development of improved control methods.

It was decided to continue to make representations to the Department of Agriculture on this matter.

Water Conservation: A statement was received from the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission in reply to a resolution passed at the Annual General Conference held last June, in which the State Government was urged to take energetic action in the conservation of water in rural areas. The statement indicated that the Commission had prepared a comprehensive long range plan of water conservation and water supply for rural development in N.S.W., chiefly for domestic and stock purposes and a limited amount for irrigation of pastures and fodder crops. Prevailing war conditions, however, had interfered with developmental works, but the sum of £800,000 would be used during the current financial year for certain of these works, chiefly for Burrinjuck.

Markets Advisory Committee: It was reported that the Sydney City Council had agreed to this Committee being regarded as a permanent body after a trial period of 12 months. The Committee is representative of all bodies interested in the City Fruit Markets.

A.W.U. Award: Advice had been received that there would be no variation in rates payable under the A.W.U. Award during the next quarter of the year.

Royal Commission Recommendations: A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture, relating to Cabinet decisions and recommendations on the Royal Commission of Enquiry, dealt with the following matters:—

Importation of Canadian Apples: The importation of Canadian Apples during November and December as recommended is a matter of Quarantine Policy and is subjected to the Commonwealth Quarantine Act as is all other fruit. The removal of this embargo wholly or partially, would have to be supported by

technical assurances as to the propriety of such action.

N.S.W. Standards of Export Inspection: It was recommended that N.S.W. standards be maintained, the reply from Cabinet indicating that the aim of Commonwealth inspection is to unify as far as practicable standards of quality and condition as between all the States, and to gradually raise these standards.

Licensing of Packing Sheds Packing for Export or Local Markets: The reply to this recommendation indicates that this principle has now been adopted in the marketing of citrus crops, and a proportion of the Apple and Pear crop that is packed for export in large district packing houses, is increasing year by year. For this and other reasons it has not yet been considered advisable to make registration compulsory.

National Mark on Export Packs: Due to there being marked differences between the quality of Apples and Pears of the same varieties grown in different States and under different soil and climatic conditions, and

also due to the impossibility of guaranteeing condition under the varying conditions of sea carriage and voyage length, the use of a National Mark could not be satisfactorily applied by the Commonwealth to the export trade. The reply from Cabinet admits the value of a National Mark in the case of the sale of local products, and also in the case of certain countries marketing in the United Kingdom.

Inspection of Export Fruit at Packing Centres: The reply from Cabinet indicated that the double inspection which this would entail could only be considered with the financial co-operation of the industry as is done in South Australia in connection with citrus exports.

The Board of the Federation, however, believed that the double inspection was already operative to a large extent and that to empower local inspectors with the right to reject or approve of qualities and packs at the point of packing would involve no greater Government outlay of money.

Export Bounties on Apples and Oranges: This recommendation of the Royal Commission did not meet with the approval of Cabinet which has guaranteed export bounties in the past to tide industries over periods of severe stress. It was also stated that the ultimate value of such benefits is open to doubt as they may prove merely the support of a policy of subsidising inefficiency in production or marketing.

The Board of the Federation, however, stated that such bounties as had been given to producers of fruit had been only a small offset to the protection which secondary industries had obtained by tariffs and that further assistance in export bounties on Apples and Oranges were quite justified.

Admission of N.Z. Potatoes into N.S.W.: This was now being permitted and limited quantities of N.Z. potatoes were arriving regularly in N.S.W.

Fruit By-products and Synthetic Fruit Drink Names: The Royal Commission recommended that encouragement should be given to the production and sale of pure fruit juices, and that the use of near-fruit names for soft drinks and synthetic fruit drinks should be prohibited. The reply of Cabinet indicated the approval of the Government to orderly marketing and as far as the Commonwealth Government was concerned had led to the appointment of the Apple and Pear Board and with regard to the citrus industry to the election of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee.

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South Australian News and Notes



INCLUDING OFFICIAL NOTES AND REPORTS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUITGROWERS' & MARKET GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.

S.A. Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association Incorp.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE Executive Committee meeting of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Assn. Inc., was held at 288a Rundle-street, Adelaide, on October 25, 1940, at 10.30 a.m.

The President (Mr. H. N. Wicks) presided, and those present were: Messrs. J. B. Randall, G. H. Schultz, J. Turner, C. J. Pitt, C. H. Ragless, L. J. Wicks, A. O. Petersen, G. Ridley, R. A. Cramond, H. B. Robson, and Secretary.

Apologies received from Messrs. W. J. Bishop, N. Edwards and H. W. Parsons.

Minutes read and confirmed.

Correspondence.

Cheer Up Society expressing appreciation of the donations of fruit and vegetables by Association members towards the Society's work. Received.

Cool Storage Figures: Statement from the Department of Agriculture, setting out figures of fruit held in cold store as at September 30.

Following discussion of Apple figures the statement was received.

Codling Moth Records: Statement from the Department also received showing records of Codling Moth catches at Government Experimental Orchard at Blackwood.

The unusually high catches for this time of the year was discussed by the Committee. Received.

Vegetable Seed for Great Britain: Letter from the Premier enclosing a copy of letter received from England re the supply of vegetable seed to Great Britain during the war.

Resolved that a Committee consisting of the President, Messrs. L. J. Wicks, A. Day and Secretary, confer with the Government authorities on the matter.

Hail Damage: A letter received from the Minister of Agriculture concerning damage to trees through hail and frost.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Society: Mr. L. J. Wicks, in the absence of the Chairman, reported that trading generally was progressing steadily.

Cherry Section: Mr. R. A. Cramond reported that the annual meeting of the section was held at Ashton on October 18, when Mr. W. J. Bishop was re-elected as Chairman, and other officers were appointed. Mr. Bishop was at present in Melbourne making arrangements for the coming crop. Crop forecasts received showed that the early and mid-season crops would be good, but the late crop was patchy.

Citrus Section: Mr. L. J. Wicks reported that despite a crop this year of between 40 per cent. and 70 per cent. above normal, distribution of the whole crop had been effected.

Celery Section: Mr. C. Ridley reported that the celery season was now finished.

Marion Branch: Mr. H. N. Wicks, on behalf of Mr. H. W. Parsons, reported that at the last meeting of branch, Mr. A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist) delivered an illustrated lecture to an unusually large attendance.

Barossa Branch: Mr. L. J. Wicks reported that in company with the President, Secretary, and Mr. L. E. Cowley, he had attended the annual meeting of the branch at Nuriootpa on October 11.

Apple and Pear Conference: Mr. J. Turner stated that as a delegate for the Association he had attended the Conference called by the Minister of Agriculture on October 16.

Mr. J. Turner moved: "That before delegates be empowered to vote on any resolution affecting Duchess Pears, a meeting of the Apple and Pear Section be called for consultation."

Seconded Mr. G. H. Schultz. Carried.

Torrens Valley School Exhibition: The Secretary reported that he had offered a cup on behalf of the Association to the

winner of the Apple Packing Competition.

Resolved the Secretary's action be endorsed.

Financial Statement: The Secretary submitted the financial statement to date, together with A/c's for payment. Resolved accounts be paid.

CHERRY SECTION

THE annual general meeting of the Cherry Section of the Association was held at Ashton on Friday, October 18 last, when a large number of growers attended. The Chairman of the Section (Mr. W. J. Bishop) occupied the chair.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were as follow: Chairman, Mr. W. J. Bishop (Basket Range); Vice-Chairman, Mr. R. A. Cramond (Basket Range); Committee, Messrs. L. Gepp, L. Bungay, E. R. Bonython, E. Collins, E. Walker, L. Trenordin, E. Giles, R. Hunter, K. Caldicott and R. Taylor.

Delegates to executive, Messrs. W. Wye, K. Caldicott, E. Giles and J. D. Yeatman.

It was resolved that in future the Committee be limited to nine members, and the method of election be by ballot paper following written nominations.

Crop Prospects: Reports received from the various districts showed that the 1940 crop would be as follows:—Early varieties, good to heavy; mid-season, good; late, patchy.

Interstate Delegate: Mr. W. J. Bishop was appointed by the section to proceed interstate to make final arrangements for the disposal of the crop.

Organiser: Mr. R. G. Bartam was appointed as Sectional organiser, and to arrange freighting matters.

Cheer Up Society.

Following the appeal some weeks ago by the Cheer Up Society for supplies of fruit and vegetables for the work of the Cheer Up Hut, the Association through its members has donated considerable quantities of vegetables each market day.

Appreciation of the Association's efforts is expressed in the undermentioned letter received from the Society.

The Secretary,
S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Assn. Inc.,
Adelaide.

Dear Sir,

Will you please convey to your members our very sincere thanks for the supplies of vegetables sent to the Hut each week.

We are very appreciative of your Association's efforts on our behalf.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. Fletcher,
Hon. Secretary.

Will members please accept this as an official acknowledgment of their assistance to a great cause.

Special thanks is also due to Mr. Briggs, who, in a purely voluntary way, canvasses the markets for contributions, and Mr. L. J. Bishop, of Silbert, Sharp and Bishop Ltd., and Mr. H. Trotter of Alex Smith and Co., for the free delivery of supplies to the Hut. The co-operation of Mr. F. H. Edwards, Secretary of Adelaide Fruit and Produce Exchange Co. Ltd., is also greatly appreciated.

The Society is desirous of a continuity of supplies, and the continued assistance of growers will be greatly appreciated.

HAIL DAMAGE.

Superphosphate Bounty.

At the monthly meeting of the Advisory Board of Agriculture in South Australia, a resolution was passed for submission to the Minister that the Government be asked to institute a fund for relief of growers suffering severe hail or frost damage. Such fund to be subscribed by a compulsory levy on similar lines to the Phylloxera Act.

A further resolution was that the Commonwealth Government be asked to provide a bounty on superphosphate for the coming season.

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GHERKIN CULTURE

Climate of South Australia Suitable for Production

(By N. R. Quinn, Asst. Horticultural Adviser, S.A. Department of Agriculture.)

UNDER existing world conditions, the importation of gherkins into Australia has practically ceased; previously, the main source of overseas supply was from the "Lowlands" of Europe, with smaller importations proceeding from the United States of America.

The climate in the greater portion of South Australia is admirably suited for the growing of gherkins, the market for the desirable grades has not, as yet, reached saturation, and in all probability, the gap between Australian production and demand will be difficult to close. Many vegetable growers in the

past have not considered gherkin growing a profitable business. This state of affairs has largely been brought about by failure to supply the factories with the preferred, and therefore, remunerative grades. In order to obtain such grades, the vines generally require picking daily, and an acre of plants bearing a heavy crop will employ three or four pickers working constantly throughout the middle of the picking season.

Yields of five tons to six tons per acre of all grades in a good year are fairly common, and the average price for produce from well-tended vines ranges from

£15 per ton to £20 per ton. The returns from an acre of gherkin plants grown in the Underdale district, situated on the western side of Adelaide, are shown below; the soil consists of a deep alluvial loam which has been under tomato glass-houses for many years previously.

Grade

1.	3,025 lb. at 4d.	£50	8	3
2.	1,200 lb. at 3d.	15	0	0
3.	1,043 lb. at 2d.	8	13	10
4.	1,307 lb. at 1½d.	8	3	4½
5.	1,070 lb. at 1d.	4	9	2
6.	1,186 lb. at ½d.	2	9	5
7.	2,910 lb. at ¼d.	3	0	7½

The total marketable yield was 5 tons 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 9 lb., and was valued at £92/4/8; the picking costs were £40.

Prior to planting three tons of fowl manure were worked into the planting drills at a cost of £2. No other fertilizer was applied after the basal fowl manure dressing, as it was consid-

ered that residual effect of the fertilizers that had been applied to previous crops would be sufficient.

Climatic Requirements: Gherkin plants at any stage of their development are easily killed by frost, and hot days and warm nights are most conducive to good growth. Seed seldom germinates when the temperature is below 50 degrees F.

Soil Requirements: The ideal soil type is deep, sandy loam overlying a clay subsoil, and the deep alluvial types yield profitable crops when watered frequently. The main drawback to the heavy clay loams is that the soil becomes very compacted during the harvesting period, owing to the constant treading of the pickers; among other things, such compaction is likely to interfere with the capacity of the soil to absorb irrigation water.

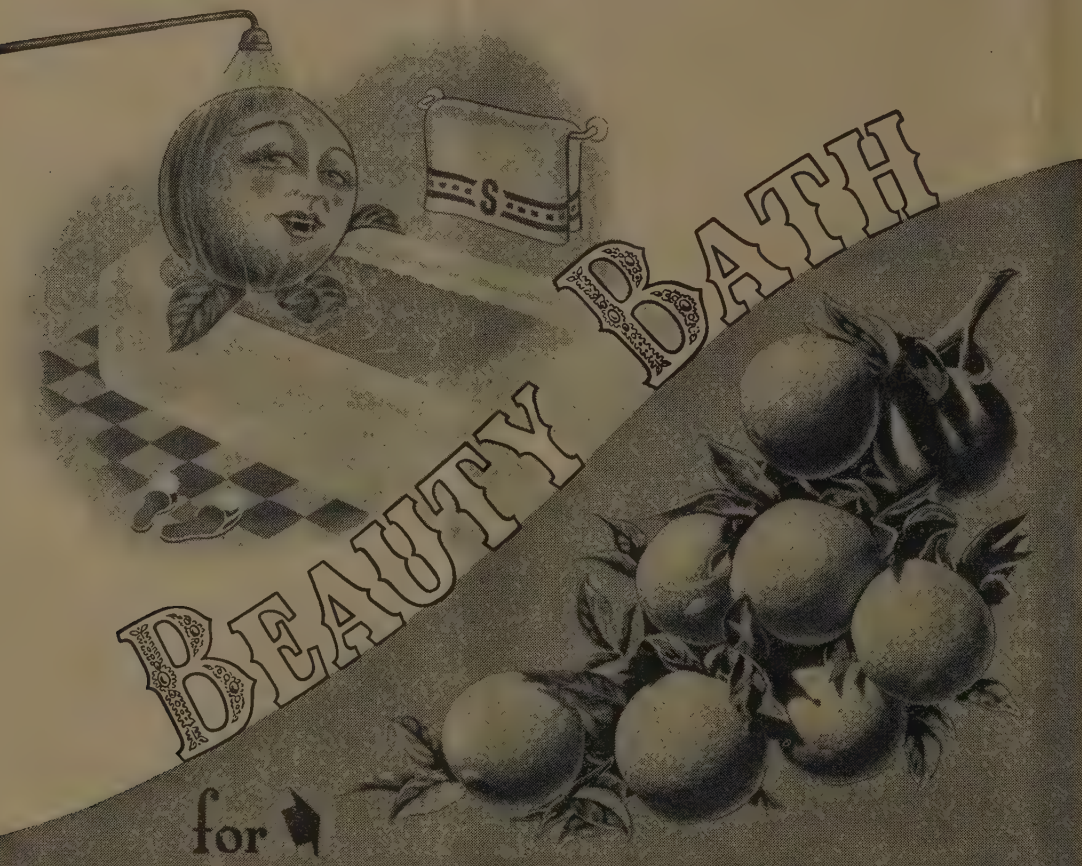
Soil Preparation: If the soil is not abundantly supplied with organic matter, a dressing of five tons to six tons per acre of well-rotted stable manure, or three tons of aged fowl-manure should be broadcast over the area that is to be planted, and ploughed under at least a month prior to sowing the seed. In cases where it is considered that the soil is well supplied with organic matter, a basal dressing of half a ton per acre of either bone dust or blood and bone manure is generally worked into the wide drill in which the seed is to be sown.

Planting: As gherkin plants are so susceptible to frost injury, planting must be deferred until all low temperature risks have passed. There is nothing to be gained by early planting, as the maximum growth is obtained during the warmer months.

Mid-November is considered to be the most suitable period for sowing the seed, as by this time the soil temperatures have risen, and quick germination may be expected. The first fruit should be ready for harvesting six or seven weeks after seed sowing. Thus, with mid-November planting, the first of the crop will be harvested immediately after the Christmas holiday period, and the grower will have no difficulty in delivering the produce to the factory.

Broad shallow drills, 6 ft. apart, are opened out across the area to be planted. The irrigation water is run down the drill, and seeds are planted 6 in. apart, and not more than 1 in. in depth along the high water mark on one side of the drill. When the plants have made a few inches of growth, they are thinned to a distance of 18 in. apart. Approximately 1½ lb. to 2 lb. of seed are required to plant an acre sown in this manner.

The young plants must be kept growing vigorously, and may require additional feeding if the basal dressings of fertilizers prove to be inadequate. The growth of the vines may be stimulated by applying 1 cwt. to 2 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia to each acre when the necessity arises.



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There's a treat awaiting your citrus this year—a Beauty Bath with SHELL WHITESPRAY. Come December, they will be ready for the first treatment and from the second Beauty Bath in February they will emerge clean and healthy. But just wait for them at harvest—bright and colourful and so full of juicy goodness as to gladden the heart of the most punctilious connoisseur.

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The sulphate of ammonia is broadcast in the drill and, if possible, it should be worked shallowly into the soil to prevent it from being washed along the furrow. When applying the fertilizer great care must be exercised to see that none lodges on the foliage, as severe burning will follow.

Watering: To grow gherkins successfully, an abundant water supply is essential. Frequent irrigations are necessary, and these must be timed in such a manner as not to interfere with the harvesting. During the peak picking period, if the weather is warm, and the vines are growing vigorously, the transpiration from the foliage is considerable, and the plants may require an irrigation every five or six days.

Pollination: Two type of flowers are borne by the vines. The male, or pollenbearing type are produced abundantly, and it is most essential that the pollen reaches the stigmas of the female flowers. As the pollen is mainly distributed by bees, the visitations of these insects are to be encouraged. Insufficient pollination, in all probability, is the cause of many of the misshapen fruits.

Harvesting: Normally, picking should commence approximately six weeks after sowing the seed. The first two or three pickings hardly defray the labor costs; nevertheless, it is most important that these early fruits are removed, as if they are left, they retard the growth of the vine, and greatly influence future settings.

Serious damage may be done to the plants by careless handling of the foliage; each runner should be rolled over carefully, the fruits removed, and the runner rolled back into its original position. During the picking great care must be taken to avoid treading on runners.

The plants make very vigorous growth during the warm weather, and the crop requires picking daily, as a fruit that is within the required size of first grade-one day will be too large if left until the following day.

After picking, the fruits must be stored in a cool, moist container, because if the original crispness is lost through wilting they do not readily absorb the brine during the pickling process.

Furthermore, the loss of moisture occurring through holding the fruit too long after picking means reduced weight on delivery to the factory, and consequently reduced monetary returns. In a normal year, the harvesting period should extend over 10 to 12 weeks, according to the duration of the warm weather.

Grading: After each picking, the gherkins should be delivered as expeditiously as possible to the factory, where they are run through a mechanical sizing machine. Growers' returns are based on the out-turn of various grades, the dimensions of No. 1 grade ranging from 1½ in. in

length and ½ in. in diameter to 2½ in. long by ¾ in. diameter.

No. 1 grade is the most profitable gherkin to market owing to the fact that the number of fruits handled for each ton is considerably less than if the minimum size for this grade is aimed at.

Great care must be taken during the picking, when the largest size in No. 1 grade is being sought, because if the large grade 1 fruits are missed at one picking they will, in all probability, have grown into grade 2 or 3 size when next encountered.

Other grades are defined as follows:—

No. 2 Grade: Fruits ranging from 3 in. to 3½ in. in length, and 1 in. to 1½ in. in diameter.

No. 3 Grade: Fruits ranging from 3½ in. to 3¾ in. in length, and 1½ in. to 1¾ in. in diameter.

No. 4 Grade: Fruits ranging from 3¾ in. to 3½ in. in length, and over 1½ in. in diameter.

No. 5 Grade: Small misshapen fruits generally known to the trade as either "nubbins" or "crooks."

Sizes larger than grade 4 are not in very great demand, and accordingly, prices are greatly reduced.

The average prices paid for the various grades delivered to

Adelaide factories during the 1939-40 season were as follows:—

Grade No. 1, 4d. per lb., £37/6/8 per ton.

Grade No. 2, 3d. per lb., £28 per ton.

Grade No. 3, 1½ d. to 2d. per lb., £14 to £18/13/2 per ton.

Grade No. 4, 1d. to 1½ d. per lb., £9/6/8 to £14 per ton.

Grade No. 5, 1d. per lb., £9/6/8 per ton.

Fruits longer than No. 4 grade were priced at £2/10/- to £4/13/4 per ton.

Varieties: Seed of several varieties of gherkin may be obtained from seed merchants and preserving firms in South Australia. A variety known as "National" in this State was imported from the United States of America some years ago, and is thought to be synonymous with the popular "National Pickle" so extensively grown in America. Other varieties obtainable from either seed merchants or preserving factories are "Heinz True Pickling" and "Hachett's Gherkin." Some factories supply seed of unnamed varieties which have been established as suitable for production of pickling fruits.

(To be continued)

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Size	New Prices	Season 1940-41
12 x 20ft.	£3 3 0	£3 11 9
12 x 24ft.	3 14 9	4 1 9
12 x 27ft.	4 4 0	4 10 0
12 x 30ft.	4 13 6	4 19 6
12 x 33ft.	5 2 9	5 6 6
18 x 20ft.	4 18 6	5 3 6
18 x 24ft.	5 15 0	6 0 0
18 x 27ft.	6 6 0	6 12 9
18 x 30ft.	7 0 0	7 5 9
18 x 33ft.	7 14 0	7 19 6
21 x 30ft.	8 3 6	8 10 6
21 x 33ft.	8 19 6	9 5 6
22 x 24ft.	6 19 6	7 9 6

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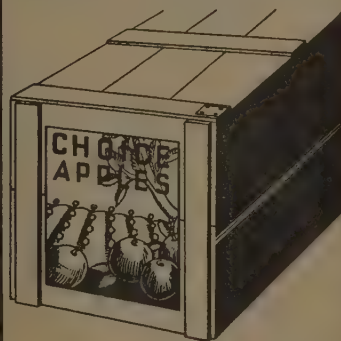


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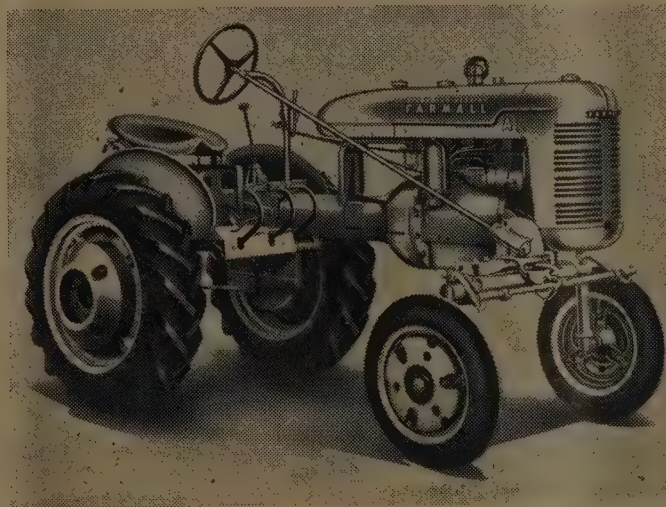
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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUIT MARKETING ASSOCIATION INC.

November Meetings.

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of members will be held at the Claridge Theatre, 52 Gawler-place, Adelaide, on Wednesday, November 27, 1940, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Business.

Presentation of Chairman's Report and Financial Statement.

Grower's Sub-Committee Report.

Election of Officers.

Election of Auditor.

General Business.

At the conclusion of the business, Mr. A. G. Strickland, Chief Horticulturist, will exhibit films taken during his trip abroad last year.

Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will meet at 2 o'clock.

E. WHITFIELD MILLS,
Secretary.

The South Australian Fruit Marketing Association, Inc.

Executive Committee.

MINUTES of monthly meeting of members held at Adelaide on October 25, 1940. The President, Mr. J. B. Randell, occupied the chair.

Present: Messrs. M. G. Basey, R. Fowler, S. M. James, L. J. Bishop, H. Kemp, R. A. Cramond, R. G. Hannaford, H. N. Wicks, J. B. Randell, P. R. B. Searcy, and the Secretary.

Apology: Mr. A. G. Strickland.

Minutes of monthly meeting held September 20, were taken as read and confirmed.

Correspondence: Letter from Mr. Fletcher B. James, tendering his resignation as a shipping member on account of his leaving the State.

On the motion of Mr. Searcy, seconded by Mr. Basey, it was unanimously resolved: "To record in the minutes a record of appreciation of Mr. James' services to the Association."

Mr. James was a foundation member and a member of the Executive Committee since its inception in 1929, and he had proved a most valuable member throughout his long term of office.

It was decided that the vacancy as a voting shipper member caused by the resignation of Mr. F. B. James be filled by the appointment of Mr. D. W. Hannaford, Secretary of Sturt Producers' Society Ltd.

Letter dated October 17, from the S.A. Apple and Pear Acquisition Committee re exporters' remuneration for services rendered in connection with the sale of shipments of Apples and/or Pears for the current season.

Membership: Application for membership from Messrs. William Nicol and Sons, Gardeners, Uraidla. Application approved.

Canberra Conference: It was reported that the delegates to

the Canberra Conference in June last, had been paid their expenses by the Department of Commerce, with the exception of Mr. L. J. Bishop, Shippers' representative.

On the motion of Mr. Basey, seconded by Mr. Wicks, it was resolved: "That the Association reimburse Mr. Bishop the same amount as received from the Department by the other delegates, viz., £22/8/-."

Annual General Meeting: It was agreed that the annual general meeting be held on Friday, November 29, at 2.30 p.m., to be preceded by the monthly meeting of the Executive Committee at 2 p.m.

Invitations to be sent to the Federal Minister for Commerce: The State Minister of Agriculture, and the Premier to be invited to open the meeting.

Growers' Sub-Committee: Mr. Basey reported that at the meeting of the Growers' Sub-Committee a most interesting address had been given by Mr. H. Kemp, Department of Agriculture on the subject of "Leaf Scorch Control of Apples and Pears" in which Mr. Kemp had shown that as a result of experiments carried out it was obvious that what was commonly called "Leaf Scorch" was actually arsenical injury.

For future meetings, the following suggestions were submitted for approval:

December Meeting: Mr. R. Fowler, Manager, Government Orchard, Blackwood, would give a paper on "Pollination."

January, 1941: Mr. S. M. James would speak on "Science as an Aid to the Fruitgrower."

February, 1941: Mr. H. N. Wicks, the subject being "Affinity of Varieties."

These arrangements were unanimously approved.

Classification of Varieties: Mr. A. O. Petersen drew attention to what he considered anomalies in connection with the classification of varieties of Apples for appraisalment.

Delegates who attended the Canberra Conference pointed out that the classification was worked out on a Commonwealth basis, consequently some States might be adversely effected in connection with certain varieties.

It was resolved: "That the Secretary should write to Mr. A. G. Strickland, who was at present attending a conference in Melbourne, stating that the Association would like him to press for the inclusion in Group 1, of 'Strawberry Pippin' for South Australia only, if opportunity offers."

On the motion of Mr. Basey, supported by Mr. L. J. Bishop and Mr. H. N. Wicks, it was resolved to record an expression of appreciation of the work of Mr. M. J. Vickers and Mr. P. R. B. Searcy at the Canberra conference.

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S.A. Fruit Marketing Association—Continued

Field Day at Balhannah: Mr. H. N. Wicks extended an invitation to all members to attend a field day at his property at Balhannah on Tuesday, November 5.

Growers' Sub-Committee

MINUTES of monthly meeting of members held at Adelaide, on October 25, 1940. Mr. M. G. Basey occupied the chair.

Present: Messrs. M. G. Basey, H. Kemp, H. N. Wicks, R. Fowler, R. A. Camond, J. B. Randlel, S. M. James, R. G. Hannaford, and the Secretary.

Apology: Mr. A. G. Strickland. Minutes of monthly meeting held September 20, were read and confirmed.

Address by Mr. H. Kemp: Mr. H. Kemp, Department of Agriculture, gave an interesting address on "Leaf Scorch Control of Apples and Pears."

He stated that the early work was of an experimental type, and one of the first discoveries was that potash manure gave no results, and where arsenate

spray was used leaf scorch was heavy and it had become obvious that in the main the scorch was due to arsenical injury. This theory was tested out in the Verdun and other districts, and it was noticeable that leaf scorch in some districts was due to the trees remaining wet for long periods, for example, it would be worse in valleys.

It was found that the addition of lime to lead arsenate was effective, but to some extent this caused the loss of codling moth control. On the other hand the loss from using straight arsenate as against arsenate with lime added was probably greater in the aggregate. It was a matter for the grower to decide taking into account the varieties grown and the conditions. With very wet periods the additions of lime was necessary.

He considered it had now been definitely proved that what was commonly called "leaf scorch" was really arsenical burn.

The following showed the effect of tests carried out in 1938-39 and 1939-40:—

Spray.	Per cent. Leaf Drop.	Per cent. scorch Leaves remaining on trees.
Lead Arsenate, 4 lbs./100 galls.	55.8	64.2
Thiox, 3 lbs./100 galls.	13.0	0.7
White Oil, 1 lb./80 galls.	21.3	0.7

Tests with River Water and Rain Water.

	Per cent. Leaf Drop.
Lead Arsenate in River Water .	55.6
Lead Arsenate in Rain Water .	58.8
Lead Arsenate in Lime	27.3

Per cent. Leaf Scorch.

Lead Arsenate in River Water .	64.2
Lead Arsenate in Rain Water .	83.8
Lead Arsenate in Lime 4/100 galls.	3.6

1939/40 Tests.

River Water in all Treatments.

	Per cent. Leaf Scorch.	Scorch Severity.
Lead Arsenate, 4/100 galls.	68.2	8.9
Lead in Lime, 1/100 galls.	36.2	7.0
Lead in Lime, 2/100	10.5	2.0
Lead in Lime, 4/100	3.7	1.0
Acid Lead Arsenate, 4 lbs./100 galls.	68.5	8.9
Basic Lead Arsenate, 4 lbs./100	45.0	6.0
White Oil Arsenate, 1 lb./80	1.0	0.0

At the conclusion of the address a discussion followed and Mr. M. G. Basey expressed the thanks of members to Mr. Kemp for the useful information he had given, this was supported by Mr. H. N. Wicks, who stated that wonderful work had been done by Mr. Kemp in investigating this disease, and the vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

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Dried Fruit Notes

South Australian Dried Fruit Pack

The annual report to the State Dried Fruits Board of the Supervising Grading Officer in the Irrigated Areas (Mr. H. R. Heming) discloses that the 1940 season was one of the most favorable for the past fifteen (15) years.

This is revealed in the general high quality of deliveries of growers to the several packing houses operating in the Murray Valley. Currants and Sultanas, however, which were harvested earlier in the season were of lower quality than later deliveries as they lacked sugar content. The whole of the dried Apricots delivered in the irrigated areas were subject to moist pack, resulting in an increased weight of approximately 7 per cent.

Growers in those areas which were exposed to hail storm, particularly Renmark and Cobdogla, met some losses, but an outlet for the damaged Apricots was found in the manufacturing trade. Amongst other varieties of dried tree fruit, the quality

of Pears and Nectarines compared favorably with other good seasons, and although there was an increase in the tonnage of dried Pears, the fruit was defective in color and size. Dry and dusty weather was experienced during harvesting of this variety, and entailed additional expense in washing the fruit.

Grub infestation was satisfactorily arrested by the use of anti-pest remedies.

A progressive improvement was noted in packing house plant and equipment. Picking tables are now generally in use and the larger establishments have installed electric magnets in grading machines. This method of segregating metallic foreign matter from the fruit as it passes from the hopper, produced some remarkable results.

The report acknowledges the willing co-operation between Packing House Executives and the Inspectorial Staff throughout an exceptionally busy season.

Dipping of Sultanas

Use of Vine Ash

That a dipping solution for Sultanas can be made from vine ash is quoted in the C.S.I.R. Journal. It is claimed that this dip is almost as satisfactory as a potash solution of the same density. In view of the decrease of supplies of potash from overseas, this provision may be welcomed by growers. The Merbein Research Station reports favorably upon vine ash solution. Although ash from waste fruit is advisable to produce the highest potash content, the quantity available is comparatively small and canes removed during pruning can provide a potential source of potash.

Figuring the average weight of prunings removed at 7 lbs. an acre containing 480 vines would provide about 67 lbs. of ash from which could be obtained one-third, somewhere about 20 lbs. of potash, which is estimated to be sufficient to temperature dip the whole of the crop and cold dip the major portion.

In burning the canes, as low a temperature as possible should be used so that the minimum

amount of clinker shall result and less loss of potash. They should be burnt in a green or half-green state in small heaps, when cool the ash should be bagged and stored.

The method of extracting the ash is advised as follows:—Fill a tank (say 80 galls.) up to half full with ash, add water until the tank is nearly full. Stir thoroughly, allow to stand for an hour, stir again and leave overnight. Syphon off the clear liquid and fill the tank again with water, repeat the stirring and standing and syphon off again. Repeat the operation until the Baume of the liquid being syphoned off is less than 1 degree. About three operations will suffice. Use the first two lots syphoned off, but if the third one is considered too weak, use it on the first tank of the second lot of ash.

The report recommends 3 degrees Baume (or higher) for the cold dip and $\frac{3}{4}$ degrees Baume (plus caustic soda to crack, and oil) for a mixed dip.

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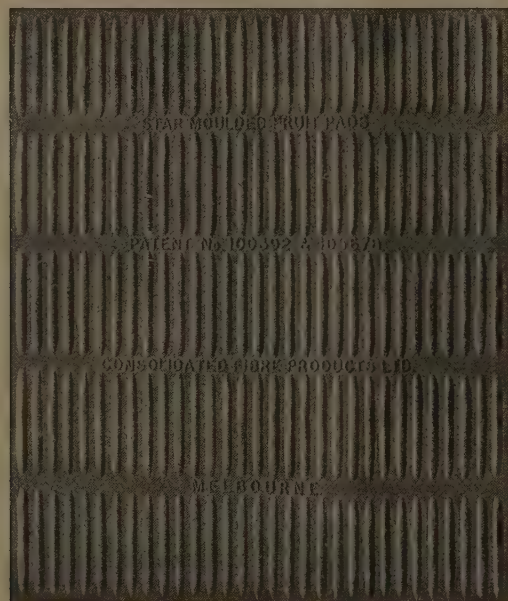
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Crop Prospects

VICTORIA

The following reports are submitted by our country correspondents covering October.

Harcourt (J. H. Ely): Fruit crops in Harcourt have given a very heavy setting in practically all varieties; some are thinning heavily, but there is plenty of room for this.

Spraying for Codling Moth, first application, is finished. Many growers have tried to burn off the fruit of some of the poorer varieties, mostly with a mixture of lime sulphur, 3 gallons in 80, and 1 gallon of oil. So far results have not been very satisfactory.

Water Question.

A deputation from the Harcourt Irrigation Committee waited on the Water Commission to try and find out the prospects of water supply for orchards for the coming season. We were told that the position at present is that the Commission anticipated that they would be able to supply about two-thirds of normal requirements to orchards this season. Restrictions would be imposed on private gardens and irrigation in November.

Hastings (G. H. Sprague): The varieties of Apples which have already blossomed have set good crops, the weather having been particularly favorable. Unless good rains are experienced in the near future it will be difficult to say what the resulting crop will be.

Late varieties, London Pippins and Romes, are flowering well even where there were heavy crops last season, but flowers are full of thrips and petals turning brown, and may do enough damage to cause a partial failure. Plums generally have set fairly heavy crops, and look well at present.

Pears are thinning out considerably, with every indication of further shedding taking place. Due to the uncertainty of the operations of the Apple and Pear Board for 1941 season, some orchards are being somewhat neglected. Another cause is shortage of labor, which is likely to become more acute as the time for picking approaches. and an early announcement of the Government's intentions is essential to enable growers to determine whether they are to be rewarded in proportion to the amount of effective work they put into their orchards.

Quantong (Mr. C. S. Jost). —

Apricots: Heavier than anticipated; medium to heavy. **Pears:** Good flowering. **Plums and Prunes:** Most lines heavy. **Quinces:** Medium to heavy. **Almonds:** Mostly wiped out with early frosts. **Tomatoes:** River plots should be excellent after 80 points of rain last night. Growers still planting, and some re-planting after recent frosts;

Firmly established plants looking well in spite of drought conditions. **Peaches:** Should be fairly heavy providing we get further heavy showers, otherwise sand-grown plantings will not come up to size and trees will probably suffer. **Apples:** Mostly good settings on plots which have not been beheaded. Many have been cut back to the butts. **Marrows, Cucumbers, Etc.:** Last night's rain has enhanced their chances. Should be good if water is available.

Output for the last twelve months amounted to 161,000 packages of fresh and dried fruits—breaking all previous records by 37,000 packages for the 12 months. A few growers have invested in new homes, and others have added to old homes, enhancing the appearance of the settlement. It is interesting to see the plantings of young trees at the South and East end of Quantong. On present irrigation storages there will only be three waterings for the season, and the outlook is depressing as some lines are bound to suffer unless inches of rain come before Summer. The Rifle Butts Scheme at Balmoral would ensure a plentiful supply for the whole Wimmera district but the war has interfered with the carrying on of this progressive and sensible scheme—though it is still under consideration.

Pakenham Upper (Mr. W. H. Carne):

Prospects in this district are as follows:—Good soaking rain is badly needed, as the subsoil is very dry. **Jonathan,** good to heavy; **Yates,** medium to heavy, isolated patches light; **Rokewood,** good to heavy; **Statesman and Grannies,** medium to good; **Delicious,** light to medium.

QUEENSLAND

Queensland (Mr. D. Pfrunder, Applethorpe): Notwithstanding the very dry weather conditions prevailing during the six months ending September 30 (only three inches of rain having been registered during that period), fruit trees generally have blossomed very heavily. Stone fruits, particularly **Japanese Plums,** including **Wilson, Shiro, S. Rosa,** and **Doris** and most others have all set a very heavy crop, and yields will be at least double those of last season, when late frosts reduced the crop.

Apricots: Generally good except **Moore Park.**

Peaches: Most varieties good; only dessert varieties grown.

Apples: All varieties good to heavy. The principal varieties comprising 75 per cent. are **Gravenstein, Jonathan, Delicious and Granny Smith.** Last season's crop was light.

(Continued on page 23.)

CANNING AND JAM FRUITS

Goulburn Valley (Victoria) News and Notes

Crop Prospects — Canned Fruit Prices

(By Our Correspondent.)

A PARTICULARLY busy month has been experienced by Goulburn Valley fruitgrowers.

The first round of irrigation for the season has been completed and the land cultivated and prepared for the next.

The first spray for codling moth was completed about the middle of the month and growers are busy this week on the second or calyx spray, which should be completed by the end of the month.

Although the W.B.C. Pears had a particularly heavy blossoming, the setting has been somewhat disappointing, although it is yet too early to make an estimate of the crop. However, it is expected that it will be much lighter than last season.

Peaches: Canning Peaches are showing a good crop of nice clean fruit, and all mid-season varieties will need thinning. The trees are looking well and are making good new growth.

Apricots are showing a medium to good crop, while in some orchards the crops are patchy. The fruit also is already a good size and clean, and should be well up to average years in quality.

Canned Fruits: Growers Seek Higher Prices.

Because of higher production and labor costs, increased prices for this season's fruit is being sought by Mr. W. Young, President of the Northern Victorian Fruitgrowers' Association, who was in Melbourne last week, on behalf of the growers, to meet representatives of the canning industry at an important conference to which Mr. Young has been invited.

The interview will follow a meeting of the Canned Fruit Control Board when prices and prospects for the coming season will be reviewed.

In discussing seasonal prospects, good crops of Peaches and Apricots are expected, but the Pear crop is likely to be only moderate. Although there has been a good showing of Pear blossom, the setting has not been as heavy as expected owing to a heavy drop caused chiefly by hot dry winds during the setting period.

Shepparton Preserving Company Makes Extra Payments Amounting to £22/18/2 on Canning Fruit Delivered Last Season

Extra payments to suppliers of fruit amounting to £22/18/2 were announced last week by the Shepparton Fruit Preserving Co., which further indicates that the S.P.C. has successfully negotiated an unusually difficult trading year. Last year's disbursements of additional payments to suppliers amounted to £23,574, only £1,392 more than to-day's figure.

A lighter crop of Peaches in the Cobram district is reported for this season. This was caused by a heavy frost during the setting period, when all the young fruit was destroyed to a height of six feet from the ground.

Obituary.

We regret to report the death of Dr. A. Bennett, who died in her sleep on October 23, at the age of 58 years. The late Dr. Bennett will be greatly missed by the town and district for her kindness to the poor, and all sections of the community by her great devotion to her profession.

LABOR SHORTAGE FOR FRUIT HARVESTING.

INDICATIONS point to an acute shortage of labor in connection with the harvesting of this season's fruit crop.

Through enlistments and a general absorption of labor in industries, official Victorian unemployment registrations have dropped to the record low figure of 7,000. Country unemployed are 4,100. As casual seasonal workers are usually included in this category, it is apparent that labor will be at a premium this season.

Locally, unemployment has been reduced to the lowest figures for over a decade and there are more jobs offering than men available.

Owing to the scarcity of suitable labor, Mr. J. L. Ellis is experiencing difficulty in proceeding with his sewerage contract at Kyabram.

A shortage of shearers has been reported throughout the Goulburn Valley and difficulty is

also reported in securing sufficient pea pickers in the Shepparton district.

With these portents before them, orchardists are concerned regarding the harvesting of the fruit crop. The growers' organisations have not yet met to officially examine the position, although the Shepparton association has received a request from the Mildura Fruitgrowers' Association to persuade pickers to proceed to Mildura at the conclusion of the Shepparton season. Several women's organisations have offered to provide auxiliary labor, but this does not provide a complete solution to what appears a very real problem. A percentage of skilled and experienced labor is essential in a highly technical industry such as fruitgrowing and the acquisition of a proportion of such labor to maintain efficiency will be the principal concern of growers.

Some orchardists have already suggested that the release from military duties of experienced orchards hands would be highly desirable, if only for the peak period of the season.

It has been pointed out that

the army authorities have permitted skilled laborers in other industries to return to their civilian duties on long leave if it were proved that their services were indispensable and were of assistance to the national war effort.

RIVER MURRAY IRRIGATION EXTENSIONS.

Further £60,000 for District.
£110,000 Grant for Goulburn Valley.

Water Supply Minister at Cobram.

An announcement that an additional £60,000 had been made available for extensions to the River Murray irrigation extensions was made on October 18 by the Minister of Water Supply (Mr. Old) when officially opening the Water Commission office at Cobram.

With £50,000 already provided this will make the sum of £110,000 available for irrigation extensions in the northern Goul-

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burn Valley in the current financial year.

Estimated costs of irrigation extension proposed by the Commission are believed to approximate £890,000. The cost of constructing headworks and one-third of the channelling will be borne by the State, while district landholders will be required to contribute two-thirds of the distributing costs.

Excluding headworks, this would represent £273,000 to be borne by the State and £617,277 by landholders.

As it is understood that the construction of main channels cost £1,200 a mile, the extensions are not likely to proceed far beyond Sandmount. Strong efforts are being made by district irrigation leagues in the northern Goulburn Valley to secure the extension of irrigation to Picola and Barmah, but progress of the works will be conditioned by the State's financial position.

YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS IN THE GOULBURN VALLEY.

Reports of Activities by Supervisors.

A visit to the Goulburn Valley was made recently by Mr. J. J. Keddie, and Mr. A. Hedley Jones, supervisors of the Victorian Young Farmers' Clubs Association, and they inspected the work of Young Farmers' Clubs in this district. Their reports on the activities of the various clubs are as follow:

Stanhope.

The new teacher at the Stanhope State School (Mr. R. Elliott) is carrying on his club work with pasture, grasses, vegetables, flax and flower studies and experiments in the school gardens. He is anxious that an advisory council be reformed in the new year, and the club be reconstructed.

Picola.

There is keen interest in Young Farmers' Club work at the Picola School and on October 22 Mr. A. Hedley Jones, a Supervisor, met the parents and district residents in the public hall. The lead in this was taken by the teacher (Mr. P. J. Hession).

Shepparton East.

Another interesting experiment is being carried on at the Shepparton East Young Farmers' Club under the able direction of the teacher-leader, Mr. A. P. Freckleton. Pine seed was secured from the schools' plantation and sown in a special bed at the school near the Peach nut seed bed. The young Pine seedlings have done well. When it was time to thin them out they were placed separately in a small fruit tin, tied with raffia.

At planting out time they will be placed in the ground, the

raffia cut and the tin separated. The tree and its soil will not be disturbed and a steady unchecked growth should be the result. The whole of the young seedlings are doing well.

Violet Town.

Following addresses to the parents by Mr. J. Courtney, a Supervisor of the Victorian Young Farmers' Clubs Association, the teacher at the Violet Town School, Mr. M. T. Duff, has applied to his District Inspector (Mr. J. Haddow) for permission to form a Club. This having been granted, Mr. Duff then discussed with Mr. A. Hedley Jones, another Supervisor, the formation of a Poultry Club at the School.

Goorambat.

At the Goorambat School the children are keenly interested in vegetable growing for the Red Cross as well as in their wheat studies. They have been troubled with Pea Mite. One member is elated with the success of an experiment. Round each of many Lettuce plants he spread Black Leaf 40, and his is the only plot from which good Lettuce will be marketed.

Field Day at Almonds.

Opening the very successful field day of the Almonds Young Farmers' Club, Cr. F. A. Cook, M.L.A., said he looked upon the Young Farmer Field Days as most important functions because they provided the training ground for the young people who would have the future of Australia in their keeping. The Young Farmers' Club movement was a definite success and was spreading throughout the State. Others to speak were Cr. A. Lawrence, President of the Tungamah Shire Council, and Mr. A. Hedley Jones, a Supervisor of the movement.

Other district clubs were represented by teachers and members of advisory councils. The lecturettes were interesting.

Lake Rowan.

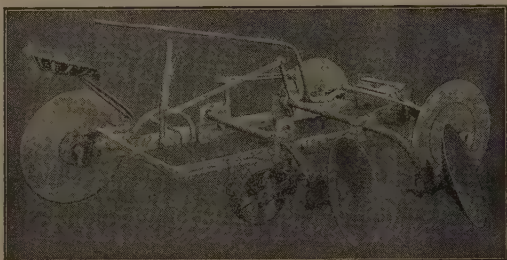
Lake Rowan Young Farmers' Club members held their gala day on October 10. This centre has an interesting community sheep project which may be developed into a valuable education endowment scheme. Some interesting displays by the young folk were seen.

CANNED EXPORTS PROSPECTS.

Decline By Half.

In a statement at Canberra on August 6, Mr. Cameron, Minister for Commerce, stated that whereas in normal years some 1,500,000 cases of canned fruits were exported to United Kingdom, this year only half of that quantity would be exported and a heavy carryover was experienced. Unfortunately, canned fruits were low on the list of priority for shipping space, but the Commonwealth was still negotiating and would do all possible to secure export contracts.

"HILLMAN" ORCHARD STRIP PLOW



Double Furrow

A sturdy, strong plow equipped with reversible discs to enable the operator to plow up to, or away from the trees. Operated by a single lever and with nothing to catch branches of trees. To facilitate the movement of the plow around the orchard the discs are movable and lift clear of the ground.

Further particulars apply . . .

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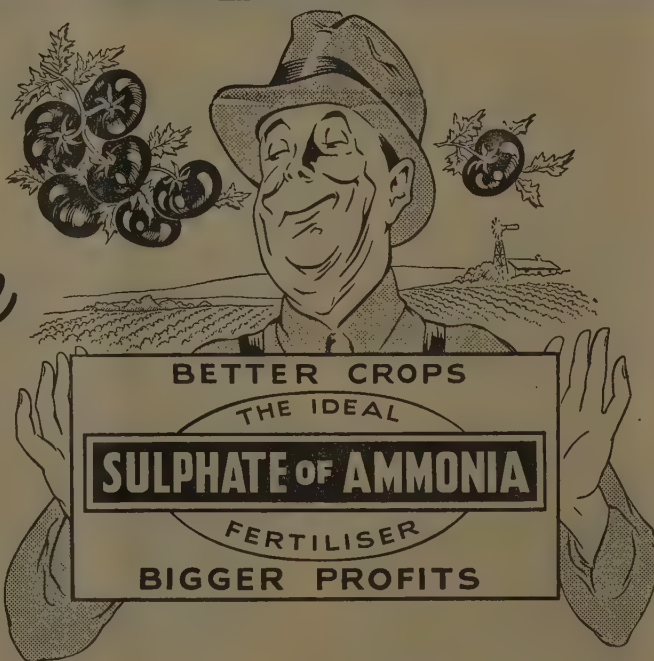
Implement Manufacturers

Shipley Street, Box Hill, Melbourne, E.11

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'em!*



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H40/38

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Canned Fruit News (Cont'd)

CANNED FRUIT INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA FACES LOSS OF EXPORT MARKETS.

Great Britain's decision to procure the bulk of her canned fruit requirements from Australia for the duration of the war, has brought about a serious position in regard to the canned fruit exports from California. Owing to the blockade and the exchange difficulties, most of the European markets have also been lost, with the result that Californian exporters are reduced to the very limited outlet provided by markets in Canada, Asia and South America. The following figures published from the "Shepparton News" (Victoria) give some idea of the seriousness of the position:—

Sales Statistics.

Movement and sales situation for the crop year June 1, 1939, to June 1, 1940, with comparative figures for the previous year, are as follows (on a No. 2½ basis):—

	Stocks on Hand.	Stocks Unsold.
On hand June 1, 1939	527,813	417,096
1939 Pack	3,338,305	3,338,305
Total Pack and Carryover	3,866,118	3,755,401
On Hand June 1, 1940	479,173	382,237
Movement June 1 to June 1	3,386,945	
Sales, June 1 to June 1		3,373,164
On Hand June 1, 1938	2,304,947	2,027,880
1938 Pack	1,546,736	1,546,736
Total Pack and Carryover	3,851,683	3,574,616
On Hand June 1, 1939	527,813	417,096
Movement	3,323,870	
Sales		3,157,520

Peach Pack Figures for Five Years.

The Peach pack is just starting, and the available supply of No. 1 fruit will be enough to provide a pack of 11,000,000. The crop is from 300,000 to 310,000 tons of No. 1 fruit, of which it is expected the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation will buy 32,000 tons, leaving about 275,000 tons for commercial packing.

As the carryover on June 1, 1940, was 2,690,432 cases, the total supply would be in the neighbourhood of 13,500,000 cases, very slightly above last year.

But with 2,000,000 cases of fruit that situation is unfavorable. A sharp reduction in the pack would alleviate the situation, but the only control in sight at the present time is grading control, which may mean a tighter judging of No. 1 fruit, and that cannot be enough to help materially.

Comparative movement, sales and carryover figures for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Total Pack and Carryover.	Shipments.	Sales.	Carryover Total.	% of pack Unsold.	% of pack & carry- over sold.
1935-36	12,686,173	10,756,864	12,383,940	1,929,309	1,343,387	90%
1936-37	12,280,961	10,783,361	12,821,649	1,497,600	881,429	93%
1937-38	13,703,118	8,125,750	8,156,750	5,577,609	4,930,157	64%
1938-39	15,023,536	12,286,447	12,193,626	2,737,089	2,182,458	85%
1939-40	13,316,455	10,626,023	10,758,940	2,690,432	2,002,884	80%

The going price for fruit sold by the growers to the canners this year is 20 dollars. Attempts by the California Canning Peach Association, holding the largest block of tonnage, to force a 25 dollar price, were unsuccessful. Prices of canned Peaches so far have been rather weak.

Pear Carryover Lower.

Comparative movement, sales and carryover figures on canned Pears for the last five years are as follow:—

Year.	Total Pack and Carryover.	Shipments.	Sales.	Ending Total.	Carryover Unsold.	% of pack & carry- over sold.
1935-36	2,037,767	1,756,303	1,676,970	281,464	236,019	89%
1936-37	2,696,330	2,343,768	2,413,123	352,562	237,757	91%
1937-38	1,851,586	1,484,912	1,420,405	366,674	316,376	83%
1938-39	1,993,153	1,774,015	1,790,122	219,138	152,733	92%
1939-40	1,566,065	1,412,512	1,382,554	153,553	117,106	88%

Pears are in good position statistically, but face the same unfavorable situation due to loss of the export market as do other fruits.

The carryover of 153,553 cases is the lowest in the last five years.

U.S.A. Canned Fruit Exports.

Detailed figures on U.S.A. exports of canned fruit show how business has dropped off this Spring, although previous shipments were heavy. They are in pounds, net weight:—

	May.	1939.	1940.	11 months end- ing May 1939.	1940.
Apricots.					
United Kingdom	1,815,401	94,715	25,858,210	29,677,485	
Canada	1,124	315	84,823	99,727	
Peaches.					
United Kingdom	6,068,403	123,392	85,697,837	77,158,301	
Canada	4,047	595	55,494	70,509	
Total Exports			94,870,291	86,116,959	
Pears.					
United Kingdom	3,278,201	232,530	70,389,638	57,218,339	
Canada	2,015	87	37,176	63,572	
Total Exports	3,537,448	354,190	75,649,530	6,767,883	
Fruits for Salad.					
United Kingdom	2,067,633	4,395	36,615,592	40,231,087	
Canada	31,053	35,378	390,559	564,937	
Total Exports	2,322,269	197,089	42,344,136	46,163,709	
Pineapple.					
United Kingdom	2,510,710	173,075	11,453,372	11,682,178	
Canada	35,865	150,620	493,503	1,331,003	
Total Exports	3,780,115	594,254	21,041,781	20,248,056	

The Market Grower

COVER CROPS WITH GARDEN PEAS.

A Double Purpose.

Value of Pure Fruit Drinks.

IN MAKING SOME SUGGESTIONS of new lines to cultivate during war conditions, Dr. A. E. V. Richardson recently advised the use of garden peas as a cover crop. Diversity of planting in our agricultural areas, if submitted, would lead to a more self-contained nation.

In other countries the spaces between vine rows were sometimes used for more intensive production, and the suggestion had been made that instead of growing beans and field peas for cover crop purposes, a trial might be made with garden peas and the pods picked for the fresh market and the plant used for cover crops.

Tomatoes might be grown under irrigation to a large extent for canning purposes, and for juice used as drinks. If

pure juice drinks

were universally consumed in Australia it would be of tremendous value to the fruit grower.

No less than nine million gallons of carbonated drinks were consumed annually in Australia and if this amount could be switched over to Apple juice it would mean a consumption of 1½ million cases.

GROWING PARSNIPS.

Preparation of the Bed.

There is no reason why parsnips cannot be successfully grown in sub-tropical climates, although the plant originated in England and may therefore be classified as a temperate climate vegetable. The best results will be had from deep, rich soil or good sandy loam. While preparation of the soil by trenching or deep cultivation some time before sowing, it is not wise to fertilise with organic manures in any considerable quantity before planting as this may induce forking of the roots.

Working the soil to a fine tilth, sowing the seed thinly and lightly raking before packing down the soil along the drills with a spade will ensure close contact between the seeds and the soil. A light covering of horse manure will assist germination and prevent the cracking of the top soil.

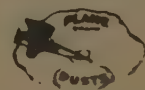
Thinning out should be done as soon as the seedlings are well up and again at about 4 to 6 ins. high to leave the plants about 8 inches apart. Use fresh seed to get best germinating results.

TOMATO MOSAIC.

Spread by Cigarettes.

English growers of Tomatoes under glass claim that the mosaic virus can be transferred to plants by the tobacco-stained hands of employees and have forbidden smoking on their premises.

The August issue of the Royal Horticultural Society's Journal contains an article by Kenneth M. Smith, of the Plant Virus Research Station, Cambridge, in which it is stated that in every case investigated this season of Tomato mosaic, it has been found that men in charge of the Tomatoes either smoked cigarettes or chewed tobacco while working among the plants. In one instance the plants were severely affected by a virus that caused a bright yellow mosaic and on testing a sample of the cigarette smoked by the grower, no difficulty was experienced in isolating the virus that caused this peculiar mosaic.



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The Market Grower (Continued)

VITAMINS IN TOMATOES.

Ascorbic Acid and Carotene.

Whether various forms of packing and storing Tomatoes had any effect upon losses of vitamin content was sought in experiments conducted at the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station and reported by Machinn and Fellers in the Abstracts of the Imperial Bureau of Horticulture. The investigations led to the following conclusions.

Tomato varieties and strains showed a considerable range in ascorbic acid content (74 to 249 international units per ounce). The possibility that ascorbic acid content may be an inherited characteristic is indicated. The outside flesh and skin of the fruit were found to contain most of the ascorbic acid, but its highest concentration was in the seeds and in the gelatinous material of the locule section.

Neither fruit size nor degree of ripeness had any influence on the ascorbic acid content. The use of parchment wrappers did not result in the fall of ascorbic acid content of Tomatoes when they were held for ten days in cold storage or at room temperature. 25 per cent. of the original ascorbic acid present in Tomato juice was destroyed when the juice was concentrated in order to prevent separation of

suspended solids. Tomato juice stored for 400 days both in the dark and in the light did not lose more than 25 per cent. ascorbic acid.

The carotene (Vitamin A) content of canned or bottled Tomato juice was not seriously affected by ordinary storage for a few months. Commercial brands of Tomato juice contained 40 to 100 international units of ascorbic acid per ounce. The variation within one brand was from 28 to 85 units per ounce.

VICTORIAN POTATO YIELD DECLINES.

The Victorian Dept. of Agriculture estimates that production will show about 16,000 tons decline when the final figures for 1940 are available, or approximately 65,000 tons as against 81,000 tons last year. Some 32,500 acres will have been harvested. Early crops in Melbourne and Geelong areas received a check from early October frosts and delayed harvesting. Lack of rain in the Western Districts also had an effect of delaying supplies from these districts.

Ice-cold Apples from slot machines equipped with refrigeration features are being tried out in America.

W.A. FRUITGROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

Annual Report.

Received too late for last issue, a review of the annual report of the Association includes the following:—The war has affected the industry in that State and deprived growers of their export market.

Black Spot outbreaks occurred in several orchards and the Association provided financial assistance in controlling this trouble. The Orchard Registration Fee was approved by the Association. The Association allotted £200 for publicity, and the result was quoted as satisfactory. A further sum of £50 was granted towards a citrus publicity campaign.

During the year, Mr. Geo. Wickens retired as Supt. of Horticulture, and Mr. H. R. Powell was appointed. During the year the Dwellingup Association was formed and accepted as a branch. During the year the death occurred of Mr. A. Cullen, a well-known Bridgetown orchardist.

PATENTS GEORGE A. U'REN

PATENT ATTORNEY
HEATHY HOUSE, 499 LITTLE COLLINS ST.
MELBOURNE.

TASMANIA

PORT HUON CO-OP.

Mr. A. R. Johnston, Secretary of the Port Huon Co-op. Society, was in Melbourne during October. He attended the conference convened by the Apple and Pear Board dealing with the fruit juice question.

Mr. Johnston points out that his company is putting up a pure fruit product and they find it difficult to compete with synthetic and other soft drinks. Regarding the activities of the Port Huon Co., they have factories at Hobart and Port Huon. At the Hobart factory all classes of fruit are processed; at Port Huon there is a cool store with capacity for 110,000 cases. At their Port Huon factory only Apples are processed, especially the Sturmer variety, in the solid pack or pie-Apple business.

The company has packing sheds throughout Tasmania, and last season they packed about 400,000 cases.

At the recent annual meeting of the Port Huon Co. the three retiring directors were re-appointed, namely Messrs. A. Dickson, P. A. Feil, L. R. Shield. There was no election because of the withdrawal of Mr. W. E. Britcliffe, of Geeveston. The other directors are Hon. W. H. Calvert, M.L.C. (Chairman), Messrs. B. J. Pearsall, F. Cole, J. Combes, C. W. Frost, M.H.R., and J. R. Welling.

FRUITGROWERS!

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RADLEYS AUCTIONS

PTY. LTD.

Municipal Market No. 3, Sydney

Daily Auction Sales Commence Tuesday, November 12

The name of **RADLEY** is known to many Australian Growers who have used the New Zealand Market. The experience gained by RADLEYS in AUCTION SELLING in New Zealand since 1918 is now to be applied to Sydney.

More than 70 Stands will be occupied by this Auction Selling Floor in one solid block in the Fruit Market (No. 3). This Auction business is being established in response to many requests over a long period. Auction sales are publicly conducted and invoices are given to buyers covering their purchases. Advice of prices and cheques are promptly mailed to growers, or advice telegraphed if desired.

WRITE US IF YOU REQUIRE STENCILS AND ADVICE NOTES.

Sell in Sydney through **RADLEYS AUCTIONS Pty. Ltd.**

(Continued from page 18)

Pears: Very heavy setting of Williams and Packhams, the two principal kinds grown. Altogether it looks like a record crop.

The "season" promises to be two to three weeks earlier than last, so far as fruit is concerned, but vegetable plantings have been delayed owing to want of rain. The rest of the State depends almost entirely on the Granite Belt area (Springthorpe) to supply its requirements of fresh vegetables during the Summer and early Autumn months. Large consignments of Beans and Tomatoes are also consigned to Sydney. Over 200,000 half-bushel cases of the latter were sent to that market during last season, and at least the same quantity in Queensland.

Growers at present are threatened with a shortage in the fruit case supply and other requirements. In some instances prices have advanced, but unfortunately, while nearly every secondary industry is able to "pass it on," the primary producer must accept just what the purchaser chooses to pay. How and when can this be altered?

Re Acquisition: While growers are unanimous in their hostility to the 1940 Scheme, which has been so disastrous in its results to Queensland growers, they realise the necessity of some form of control owing to the war conditions. They will insist on the recognition of the cost of production when prices are being determined. The payment of compensation on an assessment basis is condemned, and fruit of quality must not be pooled with inferior grades. Most growers are of opinion that seeing we produce only 2 per cent. of the Commonwealth crop, exemption should have been granted, especially as most of our crop is marketed before southern supplies are available.

HAYSTACK COVERS.

The haystack covers which are advertised in this issue by the Wyett Manufacturing Co. Pty. Ltd., of Geelong, Victoria, will be specially useful this season as hay is sure to be scarce and well worth covering. The covers are made of best material and double sewn with strong eyelets all round, and last for a considerable time if taken reasonable care of. The Wyett Mfg. Co. Pty. Ltd. have been marketing haystack covers for nearly twenty years.

NORTH MOOROPNA FIELD DAY.

A successful Field Day was conducted on October 23 by the North Mooropna Young Farmers' Club. Championship awards were won by Peggy Grieve and Margaret Doherty in sheep, Bob Ducat in cattle, and Ken Baxter in poultry.



W. MUSGROVE,
President.

Representative Attendance at Sydney Fruit Merchants' Dinner

Marketing Difficulties Emphasised

MORE than 100 fruit merchants, in addition to numerous visitors, were present at the annual dinner of the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries. The function was arranged in association with the Fruit Merchants' Sectional Committee of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, and was held at the C.T.A. on Saturday, October 19. The President of the Chamber, Mr. W. Musgrove, occupied the chair.

Among the guests were the Hon. A. D. Reid, Minister for Agriculture, Messrs. C. C. Lazarini (representing the Leader of the Opposition), A. E. Heath, President, Sydney Chamber of Commerce; Dr. R. J. Noble and Mr. A. A. Watson (Dept. of Agriculture); Messrs. C. F. Moore (Rotary Club), T. J. Parker (rep. shipping interests); Col. J. Heane (President, Fruitgrowers' Federation), Sir Samuel Walder (Municipal Council of

Sydney), and Mr. D. J. Harris (Railways Dept.), H. M. Wade (Melbourne Fruit Merchants), T. Jessor (Brisbane Fruit Merchants).

After the loyal toast had been honored, Mr. A. C. Ward proposed "Parliament," and said he would like to refer to the Mother of Parliaments. They could not allow themselves to forget the centre of the Empire, which extended to the rim of the earth. Freedom would only live if the Empire lived. "We of the fruit and vegetable industries," added the speaker, "will never be accused of increasing our own remuneration. (Laughter.) As a matter of fact we have failed to move the powers that be in this respect. There is a fabled and mythical creature called Phoenix, and it seems to me that there is an underlying analogy in respect of Parliament in that politicians enfranchise the com-

munity just before an election, and disfranchise it when they are elected."

Mr. Ward added that he did not believe in the abolition of State Parliaments because (1) he would not like all legislation made in Melbourne, and (2) that bitter as is the acrimony that developed in Parliament, one shuddered to think what would happen when decisions were left to the local governing bodies. The community generally got the Parliament which it deserved because the people did not realise their own importance, even on election day.

Minister Non-committal.

Responding on behalf of the Government, Mr. Reid said that behind Mr. Ward's remarks was the one desire, and that was to impress upon the community what Parliament could do if it had the support of the community. Parliament had a definite duty to perform. It had



P. S. MACDERMOTT,
Secretary.



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Fruit Selling Expert,

MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

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its limitations, but it stood for all we valued to-day. The people should not do anything to belittle the institution, and thus reduce its value in the eyes of the community. Better representation was often obtained from the State Parliament than from local bodies. He

would ask his hearers to approach every question with an open mind, ready to give or take.

Mr. Lazzarini said he was sure the industry received a fair deal from their parliamentarians.

Mr. A. E. Heath, proposing

the toast of the Chamber, said the primary industries were our very life blood. The fruit industry gave more employment per acre than any other industry. He was informed that Sydney was by far the largest market in the southern hemisphere. It was estimated that approximately

seventeen million packages of fruit and vegetables passed through the market annually, with an approximate value of between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000, according to the seasons. In normal times supplies came from every State in the Commonwealth, and also from abroad. Sydney had long been recognised as the clearing house of the Commonwealth as far as fruit and vegetables were concerned. Approximately 48 per cent, of its supplies came from N.S.W. and 52 per cent. from the other States. Tasmania forwarded between one and a half to two million cases of Apples and Pears to Sydney annually. Fruit was exported to the Far East and the Pacific Islands, while most liners revictualled in Sydney. In normal times, of course, heavy shipments were made to the U.K. He understood that the Chamber was now in its sixth year, and its 133 members included practically every firm of standing in the markets. The Fruit Merchants' Sectional Committee of the Chamber of Commerce embraced all the firms engaged in the export of fruit, and some of the leading agents in the markets.

Orchards Unpayable.

Col. J. J. Heane, in responding, said that during the twenty years in which he had been growing fruit, he had had the happiest relations with the agents. Growers suffered not only from the drought, but from the acquisition scheme. Apple orchards were unpayable, but orchardists in another State, growing a similar class of fruit, were having a good time. Nevertheless, he was satisfied that the fruit industry would rise to greater heights.

Responses were also made by Messrs. A. E. Tasker (Market Gardeners' Assn.), T. Jesser (Commonwealth Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries), W. Musgrove, E. Cooke, and T. Bowers. Mr. Musgrove said the salvation of the industry would not be gained by irritant legislation, but by co-operation, and the use of the best brains in the industry.

To Mr. J. L. Jenkins, foundation President of the Chamber, was entrusted the task of proposing "Our Guests." He said they were particularly glad to have with them the Minister for Agriculture. "Throughout the year," added the speaker, "contact is made with each of our guests in one form or another, and it is the desire of the mem-



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The most modern cool storage in
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bers of our Chamber that our contact will be made the more effective and friendly.

Responses were made by Messrs. D. Harris, Sir Samuel Walder, T. J. Parker, C. F. Moore, and G. Lloyd, M.L.A.

The toast of the chairman, proposed by Mr. E. P. M. Sheedy, brought to a close a most successful function, much of the credit for which must go to the Secretary of the Chamber, Mr. P. S. McDermott.

Fruit Auction Selling For Sydney

Mr. G. S. Radley, of Radley Bros., Christchurch, N.Z., and his son, Mr. G. Radley, are commencing a Fruit Auction Selling business in the Municipal Market No. 3, Sydney, on November 12.

The method of fruit selling in Sydney has been under discussion by fruitgrowers and the industry for many years, and the authorities have been requested by growers through their organisations, to make possible the selling of fruit by auction in Sydney.

Messrs. Radleys have been fruit auctioneers for many years and have sold by auction in Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand, many thousand pounds of fruit each year on behalf of Australian growers, and are fully qualified to conduct a similar business successfully in Sydney.

The selling space comprises 74 stands in one block, which is ample for conducting fruit sales. In discussing the matter of fruit auction selling with leading officials of the industry in Sydney, we find them enthusiastic as to its future, stating that as this method of selling is so satisfactory in the disposal of many lines of Australian primary products, it should be similarly successful in the disposal of fruit. This has been proved in other Australian States, besides most other parts of the world.

Auction selling provides a real system on which success can be based, invoices being given to

all purchasers, and a duplicate copy is retained for office purposes, and growers are able, while in Sydney, to come to the auction sale and see their own fruit sold, as everything is publicly conducted. At all times the growers' interests are of paramount importance, and if Radleys Auctions Pty. Ltd. are given the fullest confidence by growers, they may rest assured that results will show that their confidence has not been misplaced.

The auction system provides, with few exceptions, a complete daily sale of supplies, which will then reach the public in the shortest possible time and consequently, in the best and freshest conditions. Nothing depresses a market more than a carry over of supplies from day to day, continuously becoming more wasteful, at the growers' loss.

The experience of Mr. G. S. Radley of 22 years of fruit auction selling, also the experience of his son of 9 years in the business in Auckland and Christchurch, together with auction selling experience continuously over the last five years, should make possible the successful conduct of fruit auction selling in Sydney, with its attendant benefit to growers.

The business, as before stated, will be conducting daily sales from Tuesday, November 12. Confidence is felt that growers will fully avail themselves of the service being provided.

SPRAYS THAT PAY.

Up-to-date information on sprays and spraying methods is contained in the Third Edition of a booklet, "Sprays That Pay," which has just been issued by Messrs. Victor Leggo & Farmers Ltd., of 218-222 Queen-street, Melbourne. This has been considerably enlarged and should be of interest and help to all orchardists.

All types of insect pests and fungous diseases are dealt with in this booklet, and information is given regarding food poisons (sprays for the control of pests which actually bite or chew their food); contact sprays (which destroy the insects from the outside); fungicides (which should be used more as a preventive than a curative).

Full information is published regarding the control of Black Spot of Apples and Pears, Summer Spot, etc. A spraying chart for Victoria gives details of the pests to be treated, the spray to use, when to apply, and other helpful advice.

Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (23/10/40). — The following notes and prices are taken from the "Weekly Marketing Notes" issued by the N.S.W. State Marketing Bureau:

Fruit: Local G. Smith Apples firmed in price and values of most other varieties remained fairly steady. There was a good enquiry for quality fruit, particularly Demos., which were scarce at the close of the market.

Arrivals of Navel Oranges were much smaller. Choice packs were scarce and values firmer.

Demand for Val. Oranges was particularly good, many retailers preferring this variety to Navels owing to its better keeping qualities. Choice lots sold readily at up to 10/- bush.

The Mandarins available were mostly small and of varying qualities. Sales of this type were slow, but choice lines of suitable size were cleared. Rates for Lemons were a shade firmer early in the period but, at

closing, the market was easier. There was a steady enquiry for the light supplies of Grapefruit on offer.

Consignments of Cherries from the Lakesland and Young districts arrived on the market. The first lots brought high prices, but, as quantities increased, rates receded. Faced lots sold readily, but unfaced packs from the Young area were difficult to clear even at comparatively low prices.

A few cases of Apricots were on sale and up to 15/- half case was obtained.

Early Peaches also made their appearance, but no Plums were available.

The market for Bananas was not maintained, and values declined.

There was a keen demand for Pineapples at the week-end. On October 21 prices advanced sharply, but buyers were reluctant to purchase at the higher prices and, in consequence, the market eased about 2/- per trop. case.

Papaws continued to sell well, and specials realised to 14/-.

Leading Agents in the

BRISBANE FRUIT MARKETS

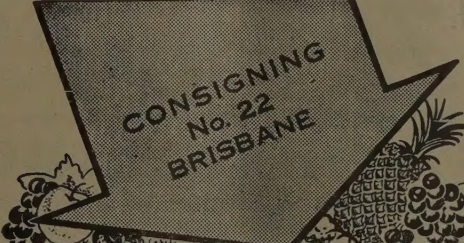
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Established 1911.

Victoria: Harcourt Fruitgrowers' Progress Assn. Ltd.
Harcourt Fruit Supply Co. Ltd.

Victorian Central Citrus Assn. Ltd.

Tasmania: State Fruit Advisory Board.

New South Wales: Griffith Producers' Co-op. Co. Ltd.

Barlow Packing House Co-op. Soc. Ltd.

With only light supplies forward, values of Passionfruit were firm and specials realised to 21/- per half case.

Current quotations are:—

Apples: G. Smith, 5/- to 16/-; French Crab (Tas.), and Sturmer (Tas.), 3/- to 7/-; Statesman (Vic.), 1/6 to 5/-; Crofton, 3/- to 9/-; G. Smith (Tas. and Vic.), 3/- to 10/-; Demo. (Tas.), 4/- to 8/-; R. Beauty (Vic.), 1/6 to 5/- case.

Pears: Jos. (Vic.), 8/- to 16/- case.

Oranges: Navel, Coastal, 5/- to 11/- (few higher); Irrigation Area, 5/- to 11/-; Val., Coastal, 3/- to 10/- **Mandarins:** Emperor, 2/- to 8/- (few dearer). **Grapefruit:** Coastal, 8/- to 12/- (few higher); Inland, 10/- to 12/- (small quantity dearer). **Lemons:** Coastal, 3/- to 9/- (few 10/-) case.

Bananas: Nines and Eights, 16/- to 18/- (specials higher);

Sevens, 13/- to 15/-; **Sixes,** 8/- to 12/- (ripe and inferior lower).

Pineapples and Papaws: 8/- to 12/- trop. case.

Passionfruit: Choice, 16/- to 18/-; specials, to 21/-; other descriptions, 7/- to 12/- **Loquats:** Mammoth, 3/- to 7/-; small, 1/- to 3/- half case.

Cherries: Dark (from the Young District), choice, 6/- to 7/-; others, 4/- to 5/-; (from Lakesland), choice, 8/- to 10/- quarter case.

Strawberries: Local, 6/- to 15/- **Mulberries:** 3/- to 6/- per dozen punnets.

eating, 6/-, 10/-, choice higher; cooking, 5/-, 8/-, choice higher; Bananas, 9/-, 17/-, selected higher; Grapefruit, 8/-, 12/-, selected higher; Lemons, 6/-, 10/-, choice higher; Oranges, 4/6, 9/-, selected higher; Passionfruit, 14/-, 20/-, selected higher; Pineapples, 8/-, 10/-, selected higher; Pears, 6/-, 10/-, few higher; Tomatoes, S.A., best to 12/-, 14/-; W.A., 5/-, 9/-; Cherries, best, 6d., 7d. a lb., choice higher.

GROWERS—Consign Your Fruit and Vegetables to Agents who are Members of N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries

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P. S. MACDERMOTT, General Secretary,
215a Thomas St., Haymarket, Sydney.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide: The following quotations are supplied by the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association:—

Vegetables: Beans, Broad (Queensland), 7/- bushel; French (local), 10/- doz. lbs.; Beetroot, 1/6, 2/- doz.; Cabbages, 2/- to 4/- doz.; Carrots, 2/-, 3/- doz. bchs.; Cauliflowers, large, 4/-, 5/- doz.; Leeks, 2/- doz.; Lettuces, 1/-, 1/6 doz.; Onions (Brown), 4/-, 5/- cwt.; (New), 8/- cwt.; Parsnips, 2/6 doz. bchs.; Peas, 7/-, 8/- bush.; Potatoes, 14/- cwt.; (New), 20/-, 22/- cwt.; Pumpkins, 12/- cwt.; Rhubarb, 1/-, 1/6 doz. lb.; Tomatoes, 11/-, 12/- 1/2 case; Trombones, 19/-, 20/- cwt.; Turnips, 1/6 doz. bchs.; Swede, 2/-, 3/- doz. bchs.; Triangles, 12/- cwt. (Cases extra.)

Fruit: Oranges, Common 5/-, Navel 7/-; Grapefruit, 10/-, 12/- case; Lemons, 10/-; Strawberries, 9/-, 10/- doz. lbs.; Bananas, 20/-, 22/- crate; Pineapples, 15/-, 18/- crate; Passionfruit, 20/- case.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (31/10/40): — Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association quotations: — Apples,

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FRUIT PACKING CLASSES.

School children from the Blackburn, Wantirna and East Burwood State Schools attending the fruit packing classes conducted by Mr. T. W. Pearce, Assistant Fruit Packing Instructor of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, entered for the competition and examination in Apple packing at the Southern Victoria Pear Packing Company's Cool Store, Blackburn, on October 29.

In all 17 scholars competed, and they were required to wrap and pack 2 1/2 inch Yates Apples in the standard case. The judging was done by Mr. B. P. Krone, Fruit Packing Instructor, and prizes were awarded to the following:—Lenzie Mullins (1st), Marjorie Mullins (2nd), Bruce French (3rd).

Mr. Krone congratulated the children on the very fine packing with one of the most difficult sizes, and explained the difference which had resulted in the award of prizes.

Monetary prizes were donated by the S.V.P.P. Co. and in presenting the prizes, Mr. J. J. Tully, Chairman of Directors of the S.V.P.P. Co., stated that he was very pleased with the results of the classes, and impressed upon the children that there would be an urgent need for packers in the near future. He advised them to take advantage of the good work the Department was doing in conducting these classes.

He also awarded consolation prizes to each of the other competitors.

The PRINCIPAL Fruit Merchants and Exporters of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Specialty Overseas Export All Countries.

New Market, Union St., Adelaide

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Are now paying a Bonus
of 15% on all Commis-
sions charged to regular
clients of the Fruit &
Vegetable Section for
year ending Sept., 1938

Send Your Consignments

TO US

MELBOURNE & SYDNEY.

Poultry Notes

GET RID OF POOR LAYERS.

Non-producing hens eat a lot of costly feed, and the careful poultry farmer knows that he can get more profit out of less birds if he eliminates the poor layers. Constant watch should be kept on flocks and, where running together with no individual check upon production, the eye and handling should be taken notice of. Hens that have stopped laying too early or slow moulters that will not lay again for several months are not worth keeping. Good layers will get through the moult comfortably and go back into lay in six to eight weeks, provided, of course, that they are receiving good management.

Alert carriage, bright prominent eyes, refined appearance and reasonably good plumage are some of the visual marks of the layer. A good layer will have a large, warm, soft abdomen with a moist vent, whilst an unprofitable bird will handle in the reverse way. A good layer, in the yellow-skinned varieties, will slowly lose the rich yellow color from her legs and the richness of her ear lobes and beak. If she doesn't, she will be a doubtful boarder. Physical characters, therefore, become a useful guide to good layers that the knowing poultry farmer will recognise.

FOWLS NEED GRIT FOR HEALTH, AND SHELLS.

Shell grit in the laying shed is necessary now that the heavy laying season is approaching.

Not only for shell forming, but also for grinding up the food and as a help to digestion. The shell of an egg is composed of about 94 per cent. of calcium and this has to be provided by the bird either from what it takes in or from the body, and a liberal supply of shell-forming matter is therefore essential to save the bird supplying it from its own body and thereby depleting its resources.

Soft shells are due, to an extent, to a lack of adequate supplies of calcium in the food. This can arise if the grit supplied is inferior in either quantity or quality. Grinding service in the gizzard can lead to poor digestion and loss of assimilation of the food properties. For grinding, a hard grit is necessary and fine assimilable grit will absorb more quickly in the manufacture of the egg. It stimulates the gastric juices and prevents clogging of the intestinal passages, resulting in good health of the birds, therefore both soluble and insoluble grit is essential.

The grit supplied should contain a mixture of sea shells, oyster shell, limestone and hard flint.

POULTRY POINTERS.

Breeding and Feeding.

It is a mistake to begin poultry-keeping with common hens. In them you have all manner of blood—good, bad, and indifferent layers. Whoever heard of a successful poultry farm that was started with any other than pure-bred fowls? Pure-breds require no more care than common fowls, and cost no more to keep.

If chicks can be given free range after they are old enough to leave the brooder house, they will develop much faster for stock purposes. But where this is not available, good strong chickens can be grown in yards provided they are kept exercised and are properly fed.

Feather pulling is a habit acquired generally from idleness. Some say it is from a lack of salt in the feed. Where a moist mash is fed, it is well to add a little salt to the water with which the mash is mixed. Also keep the hens scratching in hay, straw, or leaves for the grain they get, to keep them busy.

Weed out all but the best. This prevents overcrowding, and also raises the quality of the flock. Both mean much towards success.

Sprouted oats are excellent for breeders as greenstuff, and also as a tonic and stimulant. Be careful to have them sweet and free from sourness, mustiness, or mould. They are good for both chicks and fowls. If sour, mushy, or mouldy, they are unfit for feed, and dangerous.

FOWLS IN ORCHARDS.

Running fowls in amongst orchard trees is good for the fowls and for the trees. The birds keep down weeds and vegetation and consume insect life, thus lowering the cost of spraying and cultivation, whilst sup-

THE MAN WHO STANDS ALONE.

I honor any man who, in the conscious discharge of his duty, dares to stand alone; the world with ignorant, intolerant judgment may condemn; the countenances of relatives may be averted, and the hearts of friends grow cold; but the sense of duty shall be sweeter than the applause of the world, the countenance of relatives, or the hearts of friends.

NON-SLIP FLOOR POLISH.

This is a good non-slip floor polish to use where there are aged people, invalids or young children.

Take 1 oz. of shellac, crush it (perhaps your chemist will do it for you), add to 1 gill methylated spirit. It will take 3 or 4 days to dissolve the mixture and it should be shaken each day.

First, thoroughly clean the surface of the linoleum and allow to dry, then apply the polish with a soft-haired brush evenly over the linoleum.

For the first time it may be necessary to give two applications, after which it will only need dusting and occasionally wiping over with a damp cloth.

FOR YOUR SHEETS.

Turn in narrowly each edge of a new sheet and machine along each side a strip of tape, the whole length of the sheet. This will prevent the edges from tearing, and will add to the strength of the hemstitched portion of the sheet.

plying fertilising manure. In hot weather also the fruit trees provide good shade for the fowls, which is appreciated. The loss of fruit is negligible compared with the benefits of running the birds in the orchard.

BURNS AND SCALDS.

In spite of great care, burns and scalds are frequent in the home and on the farm. These are amongst the most painful accidents and everyone should know how to treat them. Burns are caused by dry heat such as fire or hot metals. Scalds by moist heat such as boiling liquids or steam. Besides the superficial damage, severe burns are accompanied by shock, and while healing wounds can cause infection.

Naturally, the first treatment is to remove the cause. In cases where the clothing is ignited, lay the sufferer on the floor, cover him with a blanket or other cloth to exclude the air and smother the flames. In the case of scalds, throw cold water on the sufferer. In simple burns the air should be excluded by applying a clean dressing. Lint wrung out in a solution of baking soda (3 tablespoons to a quart of water), or a solution of boracic acid is advised. Prick any blisters to release the water in them before applying the dressing.

When the burn is severe, send for a doctor, but while awaiting him, put the patient in a warm bed, hot water bottle to the feet, head down, feet raised and give black coffee as a stimulant if the patient is conscious. If the burnt clothing is adhering to the flesh, moisten it with a solution of baking or washing soda before attempting to remove it. Cut away all close clothing and apply the above dressing. Tannic acid powder, dissolved in warm water, will alleviate the burn of the skin. Failing this, strong tea can be substituted, cold. Oils, such as carron oil, should be used carefully for fear of infection.

Burns from electric irons, etc., should be treated the same as fire burns that are severe.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

All Members
under
Fidelity Bond

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the
Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association of Victoria
the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the

WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE.

STAND NUMBERS ARE AS INDICATED IN PARENTHESES.

T. STOTT & SONS PTY. LTD. (26-36).
H. L. E. LOVETT & CO. (23).
A. E. PITT (14).
J. DAVIS PTY. LTD. (8).
W. S. TONG (31).
SILK BROS. PTY. LTD. (24-25).
J. G. MUMFORD (35).
GOLDEN VALLEY FRUIT CO. PTY. LTD. (15).
J. W. ROSS (13).
H. M. WADE & CO. (21).
DAVID SMITH PTY. LTD. (3).
SILBERT SHARP & DAVIES PTY. LTD. (17).
WATKINS FRUIT COMPANY PTY. LTD (5)

G. WOOLF & SONS (29-30).
R. CORNISH & SONS (5).
J. HYMAN & SON (51).
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PRICE & KING PTY. LTD. (2).
REGAN & KENNY (Successors to Wm. Sweeney). (33).

Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market,
Queen Street, Melbourne. Phone: F 4866.

Tasmanian News and Notes

CROP PROSPECTS — NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS — SHORTAGE OF CASES — BERRY FRUIT CROP.

(By Our Correspondent.)

THE past month in the north of the Island has been dry and windy, and the annual crops are suffering considerably.

In the orchards ploughing has become difficult where left late, in fact, some ploughing had to be left altogether until rain comes.

The indications for the next fruit crop seem quite fair, as the dry weather has not yet affected the subsoil. It is too early to give an accurate forecast of the setting, but most varieties of Pears appear to have set well.

Apples blossomed patchily. W.P.M. appear to be up to average, C.O.P. on the light side, Jon. patchy, Delicious up to the average in most places, Grannies Democrats and Croftons, very good.

The case material question is acute in the north, owing to imports of pine cases stopping. The local mills prefer to cut market timber rather than cases. The southern districts have fared better for rain, but need more, although the Derwent Valley is particularly dry.

South Districts Reports.

The orchards all through the Huon, Cygnet and the Channel appear to be receiving reasonable attention, and the general health of the trees appears good. The setting as far as I can see promises to be quite up to the average. Pears appear to have set well on the average and most varieties of Apples should set a good crop. Alfristons are on the light side in many orchards, C.O.P. seem up to the average, Jon. heavy, Cleos. heavy, Delicious fair, Grannies good, Dems. medium, Worcesters are still in blossom.

The calyx spray is going on now, and probably during November most growers will put a spray on for the Canary Fly and Red Spider. Reworking is practically finished for the season.

The petrol ration allowed appears sufficient in most cases

to allow a full spraying programme and reasonable cultivation where motor power is used. Small patches of Potatoes and grass have been grown in the orchard districts during the last two years. The aggregate yields from so many small areas must be considerable; there is still plenty of room for further extension of these sidelines.

Berry Fruits.

The berry fruits are looking well, and nearly all that I have seen are being well looked after in spite of the fact that the factories will not give any assurance that they will take delivery of the crop; this is said to be due to the difficulty in securing shipping space.

I hope the Small Fruits Board can make suitable financial arrangements to enable the crop to be processed, as last time it was allowed to waste it was urgently required a short time afterwards.

The position in regard to case material supplies is not quite so acute in the south as in the north, as a few box mills survived the attempt made in recent years to crush them out of business and give the importers of pine cases a monopoly. They will be very handy in the present crisis. Annoyance is felt by all sections of the industry at the procrastination and indifference shown by the Federal Government to this important industry.

No decision has been arrived at yet with regard to the disposal of the 1941 fruit crop. Our Minister for Agriculture is attending another conference in October to discuss the matter again, and it is to be hoped that a reasonable plan will be accepted and the details published without further delay.

A progress payment on deliveries of last season's fruit is being distributed now, which will help to finance the coming crop.

The labor shortage is still most acute and will be keenly felt during the harvesting periods.

The Royal Agricultural Show held at Hobart on the 16th and 17th of October was very unfortunate in the matter of weather, as both days were cold and squally, and the attendance seems to have suffered in consequence. The exhibits were very good and the parade and other events well worth seeing.

The machine-gunner had just come out of action somewhere in France. For hours he had been burning up ammunition and he was tired out.

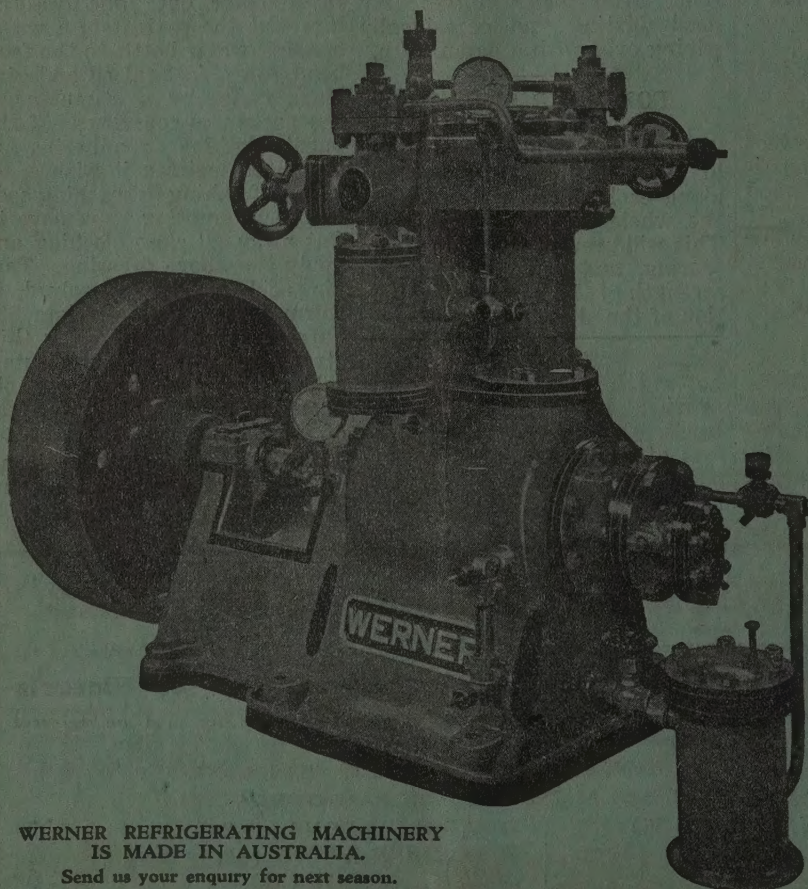
Eagerly he stepped forward as the mail was distributed. One postcard was handed to him.

Forwarded from the post office in his home town, it read: "Dear sir, this is to notify you that your gun license has expired."

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Tasmania: Noyes Bros., Hobart and Launceston.

N.S.W.: R. J. Lindsay, 99 Kippax Street, Sydney.

Stuart Walker, 174 Clarence Street, Sydney.

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